PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

11-266044

(43)Date of publication of application: 28.09.1999

(51)Int.CI.

H01L 43/08 G11B 5/39

H01F 10/08

(21)Application number: 10-327327

(71)Applicant: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO

LTD

(22)Date of filing:

17.11.1998

(72)Inventor: KAWAWAKE YASUHIRO SAKAKIMA HIROSHI

> SATOMI MITSUO SUGITA YASUNARI

(30)Priority

Priority number: 09314940

Priority date: 17.11.1997

Priority country: JP

09352614

22.12.1997

JP

10 6681

16.01.1998

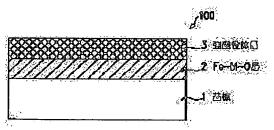
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(54) EXCHANGE COUPLING FILM, MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECT ELEMENT, HEAD USING THE SAME AND MANUFACTURE THEREOF

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve thermal stability and to increase an MR ratio using an Fe-M-O layer as a magnetization rotation suppressing layer.

SOLUTION: An Fe-M-O layer 2 and a ferromagnetic layer 3 are successively laminated on a substrate 1 on an exchange coupling film 100, and the Fe-M-O layer 2 is used as a magnetization rotation suppressing layer with which an exchange bias magnetic field works on the ferromagnetic layer 3. The Fe-M-O layer 2 is formed by adding the third element to Fe-O which is a magnetic rotation suppressing layer, and it is defined that the atomic composition ratio of an Fe-M added metal and oxygen O is 1.2-1.6. By adding the third element M to Fe-M, which is a magnetization rotation suppressing layer, in such a manner that their atomic composition ratio becomes 1.2 to 1.6, the pin-locking effect of magnetization of a fixed layer can be improved. Besides. an Fe-M-O layer, in which a part of Fe atoms is replaced by the atoms such as Al, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, Ni and



suppressing layer.

V, etc., in an Fe-O layer which is an oxide layer og Fe, is used as the magnetization rotation

[Date of request for examination]

17.11.1998

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of

rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or

application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

3137288

[Date of registration]

08.12.2000

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision

of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's

decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is the switched connection film with which it is the switched connection film containing the magnetization rotation control layer which consists of a substrate and multilayers, these multilayers adjoin a ferromagnetic layer and this ferromagnetic layer, is prepared, and controls magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer, and this magnetization rotation control layer contains the Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

[Claim 2] This magnetization rotation control layer is the switched connection film containing 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01 <= x <= 0.4) according to claim 1

[Claim 3] This magnetization rotation control layer is switched connection film according to claim 1 which contains the NiO layer further.

[Claim 4] this magnetization rotation control layer — Fe-M' –O layers (M'=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V) — further — containing — **** — this Fe-M' — the switched connection film according to claim 1 with which –O layers differ in the presentation of an element from this Fe-M-O layer.

[Claim 5] Switched connection film according to claim 1 whose surface roughness of these multilayers is 0.5nm or less of outlines.

[Claim 6] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer is 5nm or more switched connection film according to claim 1 which is 100nm or less.

[Claim 7] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer is 5nm or more switched connection film according to claim 6 which is 50nm or less.

[Claim 8] Switched connection film according to claim 1 with which the switched connection film is heat-treated at 150-degree-C-350 degree C in the field after this magnetization rotation control layer and this ferromagnetic layer are formed.

[Claim 9] Consist of a substrate and multilayers and these multilayers contain at least two ferromagnetic layers, non-magnetic layers, and the magnetization rotation control layer that controls one magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer. The laminating of this ferromagnetic layer is carried out on both sides of this non-magnetic layer. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers It is the fixed bed to which the magnetization direction was fixed by this magnetization rotation control layer prepared in the opposite side of this non-magnetic layer in contact with this ferromagnetic layer of another side to this one ferromagnetic layer. this — At least one of these ferromagnetic layers is the free layer which the magnetization direction can rotate freely. It is the magneto-resistive effect component in which it is the magneto-resistive effect component from which electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer], and this magnetization rotation control layer contains the Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

[Claim 10] This magnetization rotation control layer is a magneto-resistive effect component containing 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01 <= x <= 0.4) according to claim 9.

[Claim 11] This magnetization rotation control layer is a magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 which contains the NiO layer further.

[Claim 12] this magnetization rotation control layer -- Fe-M' -O layers (M'=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn,

Cr, nickel, V) — further — containing — **** — this Fe-M' — the magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 from which —O layers and this Fe-M-O layer differ in the presentation of an element.

[Claim 13] The magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 whose surface roughness of these multilayers is 0.5nm or less of outlines.

[Claim 14] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer is a 5nm or more magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 which is 100nm or less.

[Claim 15] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer is a 5nm or more magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 14 which is 50nm or less.

[Claim 16] The magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 by which the magneto-resistive effect component is heat-treated at 150-degree-C-350 degree C in the field after this magnetization rotation control layer and this ferromagnetic layer are formed.

[Claim 17] On a substrate these multilayers The 1st magnetization rotation control layer, the 1st fixed bed, and the 1st non-magnetic layer, the free layer which consists of a ferromagnetic, the 2nd non-magnetic layer, the 2nd fixed bed, and the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer — one by one — a laminating — carrying out — changing — this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer a Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V) — containing — **** — this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer — the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed — fixing — this — the magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 to which the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer fixes the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed.

[Claim 18] this — the magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 17 in which the 1st magnetization rotation control layer contains 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01<=x<=0.4).

[Claim 19] this — the magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 17 in which the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer contains either NiO or a Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

[Claim 20] This free layer is a magneto-resistive effect component containing the 3rd non-magnetic layer and the magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out on both sides of this 3rd non-magnetic layer] according to claim 9.

[Claim 21] This free layer is a magneto-resistive effect component containing the 3rd non-magnetic layer and the magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out on both sides of this 3rd non-magnetic layer] according to claim 17.

[Claim 22] This fixed bed is a magneto-resistive effect component containing the 3rd non-magnetic layer and two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection in antiferromagnetism through this 3rd non-magnetic layer according to claim 9.

[Claim 23] One fixed bed is a magneto-resistive effect component containing two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection in antiferromagnetism through the 3rd non-magnetic layer even if there was none of these ** according to claim 17.

[Claim 24] A magneto-resistive effect mold head equipped with the shielding gap section which insulates a magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9, this magneto-resistive effect component, and the shielding section.

[Claim 25] A magneto-resistive effect mold head equipped with a magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 and the York section which introduces the field which should be detected to this magneto-resistive effect component.

[Claim 26] Consist of a substrate and multilayers and these multilayers contain at least two ferromagnetic layers, non-magnetic layers, and the magnetization rotation control layer that controls magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer. Even if there is none of these **, the laminating of the two ferromagnetic layers is carried out on both sides of this non-magnetic layer. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers By this magnetization rotation control layer prepared in the opposite side of this non-magnetic layer in contact with this ferromagnetic layer to this ferromagnetic layer It is the fixed bed to which the magnetization direction was fixed. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers The 1st process which the magnetization direction is the free layer which can be rotated freely, is the manufacture approach of a magneto-resistive

effect component that electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer], and forms this magnetization rotation control layer on a substrate, The 2nd process which carries out the laminating of this fixed bed, this non-magnetic layer, and this free layer one by one is included on this magnetization rotation control layer. This 1st process The manufacture approach of the magneto-resistive effect component which includes the process which carries out sputtering of the target with which the main components consist of Fe-M-O (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

[Claim 27] On a substrate, the 1st magnetization rotation control layer, the 1st fixed bed, and the 1st non-magnetic layer, The multilayers which carry out the laminating of the free layer which consists of a ferromagnetic, the 2nd non-magnetic layer, the 2nd fixed bed, and the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer one by one, and change are included. The 2nd magnetization rotation control layer fixes the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed. this -- the 1st magnetization rotation control layer -- the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed -- fixing -- this -- It is the manufacture approach of a magneto-resistive effect component that electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed and the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer]. this substrate top -- this -- the 1st process which forms the 1st magnetization rotation control layer -- this -- with the 2nd process which carries out the laminating of this 1st fixed bed, this 1st non-magnetic layer, this free layer, this 2nd nonmagnetic layer, and this 2nd fixed bed one by one on the 1st magnetization rotation control layer The 3rd process which forms the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer is included. this -- a 2nd fixed-bed top -- this -- this 1st process and this 3rd process The manufacture approach of the magneto-resistive effect component which includes the process which carries out sputtering of the target with which the main components consist of Fe-M-O (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the manufacture approach of the magneto-resistive effect mold head suitable for the high density magnetic-recording playback which consists of switched connection film for fixing the magnetization direction of a ferromagnetic, and a low field constituted using it using the magneto-resistive effect component and it which cause a big magnetic-reluctance change, and a magneto-resistive effect component. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, the densification of a hard disk drive is remarkable and its advance of the playback magnetic head which reads the magnetization recorded on the medium is also remarkable. The magneto-resistive effect component (henceforth "MR component") called the spin bulb which used giant magneto-resistance especially is briskly studied as what raises sharply the sensibility of the magneto-resistive effect mold head (henceforth an "MR head") used now.

[0003] Two ferromagnetic layers are arranged through a non-magnetic layer, and MR component fixes the magnetization direction of one ferromagnetic layer (henceforth the "fixed bed") by the exchange bias field by the magnetization rotation control layer (the ferromagnetic layer at this time and a magnetization rotation control layer are doubled, and it is called the "switched connection film".). The ferromagnetic layer of another side (it is also called a "free layer" below.) By moving the magnetization direction comparatively freely according to an external magnetic field, whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed and the magnetization direction of a free layer] is changed, and change of electric resistance is produced.

[0004] It is related with the ingredient used for MR component. As a ferromagnetic layer NiFe, It is what used Fe-Mn as Cu and a magnetization rotation control layer as a non-magnetic layer, and is magnetic reluctance rate of change (it is called "MR ratio" below.). About 2% of thing was proposed (). [journal] OBU MAGUNETIZUMU and — Magnetic MATERIARUZU 93 The 101st page (1991) (101 93 Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials p 1991). Thus, the thing using FeMn as a magnetization rotation control layer has small MR ratio, and blocking temperature (temperature whose magnetization fixed effect of the fixed bed by the magnetization rotation control layer is lost) is not high enough, and since a difficulty is in the corrosion resistance of the FeMn itself, MR component using various magnetization rotation control layers other than FeMn is proposed.

[0005] MR component which used NiO and the oxide of alpha-Fe 2O3 grade as a magnetization rotation control layer especially can expect a large thing as by leaps and bounds [MR ratio] as 15% or more.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, blocking temperature of NiO is not high enough. For this reason, there is a problem in the thermal stability of MR component using NiO. [0007] Moreover, when MR component using the magnetization rotation control layer which consists of alpha-Fe 2O3 has the thin thickness of the magnetization rotation control layer, the reversal field of the fixed bed does not become sufficiently large. In the case of MR component which has the structure in which 2O3 layer of alpha-Fe were formed on the case of MR

component which has dual spin bulb structure especially, or the fixed bed, the inclination for the reversal field of the fixed bed not to become sufficiently large in 203 layer of upside alpha—Fe is remarkable. Moreover, it occurs [the technical problem of the same thermal stability as NiO occurs, and / the technical problem of the anisotropy control in heat treatment / at the time of membrane formation in a field or low temperature / among a field] further and is not practical. [0008] The purpose of this invention has good thermal stability, and it is to acquire the manufacture approach of the switched connection film in which big MR ratio is shown, MR component, an MR head, and MR component. [0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The switched connection film concerning this invention consists of a substrate and multilayers, these multilayers are switched connection film containing the magnetization rotation control layer which adjoins a ferromagnetic layer and this ferromagnetic layer, is prepared, and controls magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer, this magnetization rotation control layer contains the Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V), and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained.

[0010] This magnetization rotation control layer may contain 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01<=x<=0.4).

[0011] This magnetization rotation control layer may contain the NiO layer further.

[0012] This magnetization rotation control layer contains further the Fe-M'-O layer (M'=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V), and is this Fe-M'. - O layers may differ in the presentation of an element from this Fe-M-O layer.

[0013] The surface roughness of these multilayers may be 0.5nm or less of outlines.

[0014] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer may be 5nm or more 100nm or less.

[0015] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer may be 5nm or more 50nm or less.

[0016] After this magnetization rotation control layer and this ferromagnetic layer are formed, the switched connection film may be heat-treated at 150-degree-C-350 degree C in the field. [0017] The magneto-resistive effect component concerning this invention consists of a substrate and multilayers. These multilayers At least two ferromagnetic layers, non-magnetic layers, and the magnetization rotation control layer that controls one magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer are included. The laminating of this ferromagnetic layer is carried out on both sides of this non-magnetic layer. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers It is the fixed bed to which the magnetization direction was fixed by this magnetization rotation control layer prepared in the opposite side of this non-magnetic layer in contact with this ferromagnetic layer of another side to one ferromagnetic layer. this - At least one of these ferromagnetic layers is the free layer which the magnetization direction can rotate freely. It is the magneto-resistive effect component from which electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer], and this magnetization rotation control layer contains the Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V), and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained. [0018] This magnetization rotation control layer may contain 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, $0.01 \le x \le 0.4$).

[0019] This magnetization rotation control layer may contain the NiO layer further. [0020] This magnetization rotation control layer contains further the Fe-M'-O layer (M'=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V), and is this Fe-M'. - O layers may differ in the presentation of an element from this Fe-M-O layer.

[0021] The surface roughness of these multilayers may be 0.5nm or less of outlines.

[0022] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer may be 5nm or more 100nm or less.

[0023] The thickness of this magnetization rotation control layer may be 5nm or more 50nm or less.

[0024] After this magnetization rotation control layer and this ferromagnetic layer are formed, the magneto-resistive effect component may be heat-treated at 150-degree-C-350 degree C in the field.

[0025] On a substrate these multilayers The 1st magnetization rotation control layer, the 1st fixed bed, and the 1st non-magnetic layer, the free layer which consists of a ferromagnetic, the 2nd non-magnetic layer, the 2nd fixed bed, and the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer — one by one — a laminating — carrying out — changing — this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer a Fe-M-O layer (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V) — containing — **** — this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer — the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed — fixing — this — the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer may fix the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed.

[0026] this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer may contain 2 (Fe1-XMX)O3 layers (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01 <= x <= 0.4).

[0027] this — the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer may contain either NiO or a Fe-M-O layer (M-aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V).

[0028] This free layer may contain the 3rd non-magnetic layer and the magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out on both sides of this 3rd non-magnetic layer].

[0029] This free layer may contain the 3rd non-magnetic layer and the magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out on both sides of this 3rd non-magnetic layer].

[0030] This fixed bed may contain the 3rd non-magnetic layer and two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection in antiferromagnetism through this 3rd non-magnetic layer. [0031] This fixed bed may contain the 3rd non-magnetic layer and two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection in antiferromagnetism through this 3rd non-magnetic layer. [0032] The magneto-resistive effect mold head concerning this invention is equipped with the shielding gap section which insulates a magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9, this magneto-resistive effect component, and the shielding section, and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained.

[0033] Other magneto-resistive effect mold heads concerning this invention are equipped with a magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 9 and the York section which introduces the field which should be detected to this magneto-resistive effect component, and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained.

[0034] The manufacture approach of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning this invention Consist of a substrate and multilayers and these multilayers contain at least two ferromagnetic layers, non-magnetic layers, and the magnetization rotation control layer that controls magnetization rotation of this ferromagnetic layer. Even if there is none of these **, the laminating of the two ferromagnetic layers is carried out on both sides of this non-magnetic layer. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers By this magnetization rotation control layer prepared in the opposite side of this non-magnetic layer in contact with this ferromagnetic layer to this ferromagnetic layer It is the fixed bed to which the magnetization direction was fixed. At least one of these ferromagnetic layers. The 1st process which the magnetization direction is the free layer which can be rotated freely, is the manufacture approach of a magneto-resistive effect component that electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer], and forms this magnetization rotation control layer on a substrate, The 2nd process which carries out the laminating of this fixed bed, this non-magnetic layer, and this free layer one by one is included on this magnetization rotation control layer. This 1st process The process which carries out sputtering of the target with which the main components consist of Fe-M-O (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V) is included, and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained.

[0035] The manufacture approach of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning this invention On a substrate, the 1st magnetization rotation control layer, the 1st fixed bed, and the 1st non-magnetic layer, The multilayers which carry out the laminating of the free layer which consists of a ferromagnetic, the 2nd non-magnetic layer, the 2nd fixed bed, and the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer one by one, and change are included. The 2nd magnetization rotation control layer fixes the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed. this — the 1st magnetization rotation control layer — the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed — fixing

— this — It is the manufacture approach of a magneto-resistive effect component that electric resistance changes with change of whenever [angular relation / of the magnetization direction of this 1st fixed bed and the magnetization direction of this 2nd fixed bed, and the magnetization direction of this free layer]. this substrate top — this — the 1st process which forms the 1st magnetization rotation control layer — this — with the 2nd process which carries out the laminating of this 1st fixed bed, this 1st non-magnetic layer, this free layer, this 2nd non-magnetic layer, and this 2nd fixed bed one by one on the 1st magnetization rotation control layer The 3rd process which forms the 2nd magnetization rotation control layer is included, this — a 2nd fixed-bed top — this — this 1st process and this 3rd process The process which carries out sputtering of the target with which the main components consist of Fe-M-O (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V) is included, and, thereby, the above-mentioned purpose is attained. [0036]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The switched connection film, MR component, and the MR head which start this invention below are explained based on a drawing.

[0037] The configuration of the switched connection film 100 of this invention is shown in drawing 1. In drawing 1, the laminating of the Fe-M-O layer 2 and the ferromagnetic layer 3 is carried out one by one on the substrate 1. The description of this invention is the point of making an exchange bias field acting on the ferromagnetic layer 3 using the Fe-M-O layer 2, as a magnetization rotation control layer.

[0038] The Fe-M-O layer concerning this invention adds the third element M to Fe-O which is a magnetization rotation control layer, and defines it as that whose atomic composition ratios of a metal (what added Fe and M), and oxygen (O) are 1.2-1.6.

[0039] By adding the third element M to Fe-O which is a magnetization rotation control layer, so that an atomic composition ratio may be set to 1.2-1.6, the pinning effectiveness of magnetization of the fixed bed becomes good by low-temperature heat treatment. An atomic composition ratio is desirably taken as the range of 1.35-1.55.

[0040] the atomic composition ratio of a metal (what added Fe and M), and oxygen (O) — 1.2–1.6 — the pinning effectiveness of the magnetization of the fixed bed by being out of range is not good. The pinning effectiveness deteriorates [an atomic composition ratio] or less in 1.2. It is not desirable, when an atomic composition ratio serves as a ferromagnetic with a Fe-M-O layer weak at 1.6 or more and it uses for an MR head.

[0041] Next, it explains in more detail about MR component using the switched connection film 100.

[0042] An example of the sectional view showing the configuration of the MR component 200 of this invention in drawing 2 is shown. In drawing 2, the laminating of the Fe-M-O layer 2, the fixed bed 3, a non-magnetic layer 4, and the free layer 5 is carried out one by one on the substrate 1. Pinning of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 which is a ferromagnetic is carried out by the exchange bias field by the Fe-M-O layer 2. Since it is magnetically separated from the fixed bed 3 by the non-magnetic layer 4, the magnetization direction of the free layer 5 which is one ferromagnetic can be moved comparatively freely by the field from the outside of the MR component 200.

[0043] Therefore, when the include angle of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 and the magnetization direction of the free layer 5 changes relatively, the electric resistance of the MR component 200 changes. When using the MR component 200 as a magnetic-reluctance sensor, change of the electric resistance produced by the field from the outside of the MR component 200 can be read as an electrical signal.

[0044] The description of this invention is the point of using the Fe-M-O layer 2, as a magnetization rotation control layer. As the conventional example described, MR component using alpha-Fe 2O3 shows big MR ratio. However, MR component using alpha-Fe 2O3 of the magnitude of the pinning field of the fixed bed 3 is inadequate (remarkable at 2O3 layer of alpha-Fe for up pinning at the time of considering as the structure which has the fixed bed especially in dual structure and a top), and the property improvement by heat treatment among a low-temperature field is not easy.

[0045] In order to solve this trouble, in this invention, the Fe-M-O layer which permuted some Fe atoms by atoms, such as aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, and V, as a magnetization rotation

control layer in the Fe-O layer which is an oxidizing zone of Fe is used.

[0046] At this time, it is desirable for the atomic composition ratios of a metal (what added Fe and M), and oxygen (O) to have been outlines 1.2–1.6. If some Fe atoms are permuted by aluminum, Ti, Mn, V, etc., the pinning effectiveness of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 will become larger after heat treatment with a temperature of 150 to about 350 degrees C. Moreover, if Co, nickel, etc. permute some Fe atoms, MR component which has a bigger pinning field the time of production of MR component and after heat treatment will be obtained. [0047] In the above, especially Mn and Co are effective in obtaining bigger MR ratio. Co is effective in especially acquiring a bigger pinning field. A presentation desirable although a bigger pinning field is acquired is 2 (Fe1–xMx)O3 (M=aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel and V, 0.01<=x<=0.4).

It comes out.

[0048] if x is too small — effectiveness — or if it enlarges not much, the pinning effectiveness must not fall on the contrary. Moreover, since it becomes the ferrimagnetic substance and a Fe-M-O layer is made to generate spontaneous magnetization when aluminum, Ti, Co, Mn, Cr and nickel which described Fe atom above, and other elements other than V permute, there is a problem.

[0049] Since the pinning effectiveness of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 will become weak if the thickness of the Fe-M-O layer 2 is too thin not much, at least 5nm or more of thickness of the Fe-M-O layer 2 is required moreover, when the thickness of the Fe-M-O layer 2 is too thick, there needs to be a front face — since it becomes easy to generate magnetic association between **, the free layer 5, and the fixed bed 3, the thickness of the Fe-M-O layer 2 is desirably good to be referred to [100nm or less] as 50nm or less. In the case of MR component of dual structure, especially this condition is important.

[0050] In addition, although a magnetization rotation control layer is usually the antiferromagnetic substance, it does not need to serve as the antiferromagnetic substance with the whole perfect magnetization rotation control layer as a role of the Fe-M-O layer 2 that what is necessary is just to be able to fix the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 in the fixed direction. For example, even if a part of magnetization rotation control layer serves as a weak ferromagnetic, paramagnetic material, and the ferrimagnetic substance, there should just be a fixed effect of the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3.

[0051] Usually, as a free layer 5 of an MR head, the nickel-Co-Fe alloy is suitable. As an atomic composition ratio of a nickel-Co-Fe layer, it is desirable to use the soft magnetism layer of nickel-rich of NixCoyFeZ 0.6<=x<=0.90<=y<=0.40<=z<=0.3 or the Co-rich layer of Nix'Coy'Fez'0 <=x'<=0.40.2 <=y'<=0.950 <=z'<=0.5. The layer of these presentations has the low magnetostriction property (1x10-5) demanded as a sensor or an object for MR heads. [0052] Moreover, as other ingredients of the free layer 5, the cascade screen of amorphous layers, such as Co-Mn-B, Co-Fe-B, Co-Nb-Zr, and Co-Nb-B, or the this amorphous layer and the above-mentioned nickel-Co-Fe layer is sufficient.

[0053] The thickness of the free layer 5 has 1nm or more good 10nm or less. If the free layer 5 is thick, MR ratio will fall by the shunt effect. If the free layer 5 is too thin, soft magnetic characteristics will deteriorate. 2nm or more 7nm or less is more desirably good.
[0054] As the fixed bed 3, ingredients, such as Co or Co-Fe, and a nickel-Fe-Co alloy, are excellent. It is good for obtaining MR ratio especially with big Co or Co-Fe alloy. Moreover, for obtaining big switched connection, the nickel-Fe and nickel-Fe-Co systems are desirable. Therefore, it is desirable to use nickel system film for an interface with the Fe-M-O layer 2, and to use Co system film for an interface with the non-magnetic layers 4, such as Cu.
[0055] The thickness of the fixed bed 3 has 1nm or more good 10nm or less. Even if the fixed bed 3 is too thick and it is too thin, MR ratio falls. It is good to be more desirably referred to as 1nm or more 5nm or less.

[0056] The multilayers which consist of two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection in antiferromagnetism through the non-magnetic layer 4 may be used for the fixed bed 3. Specifically, Co/Ru/Co is raised as the example. However, it is necessary to make thickness of Ru into the thickness in which two Co(es) carry out switched connection antiferromagnetism, and it is about 0.6nm in this case at this time. With the usual MR component,

when MR component becomes very small, there is a problem on which the bias field which is not desirable is impressed to the free layer 5 by the magnetic pole generated in the end face of the fixed bed 3. By considering as the configuration which consists of two magnetic layers which carried out switched connection of the fixed bed 3 in antiferromagnetism, a bias field is not impressed to the free layer 5, but the above-mentioned problem is solved.

[0057] As a non-magnetic layer 4 between the free layer 5 and the fixed bed 3, although there are Cu, Ag, Au, Ru, etc., especially Cu is excellent. In order that the thickness of a non-magnetic layer 4 may weaken the interaction between ferromagnetic layers (the fixed bed 3 and free layer 5), at least 0.9nm or more is required. Moreover, since MR ratio will fall if a non-magnetic layer 4 becomes thick, 10nm or less of thickness of a non-magnetic layer 4 should be desirably set to 3nm or less.

[0058] Moreover, in order to enlarge MR ratio further, it is also effective to insert an interface magnetic layer in the interface of a ferromagnetic layer (the fixed bed 3 or free layer 5) and a non-magnetic layer 4. If an interface magnetic layer is thick, since the field sensibility of MR ratio will fall, it is necessary to set desirably 2nm or less of thickness of an interface magnetic layer to 1.8nm or less. Moreover, in order for this interface magnetic layer to work effectively, the thickness on at least 0.2nm is required, and its thickness of 0.8nm or more is desirably good. As an ingredient of an interface magnetic layer, Co or the Co-Fe alloy of Co high concentration is excellent.

[0059] As a substrate 1, the comparatively smooth thing of front faces, such as glass, MgO and Si, and an A12O3-TiC substrate, is used. In producing an MR head, the A12O3-TiC substrate is suitable.

[0060] Moreover, as one of the approaches of enlarging MR ratio further, it is also good to form a metallic reflective layer further on the free layer 5. As an ingredient of the metallic reflection film, Ag, Au, etc. are excellent.

[0061] Since MR ratio will fall by the shunt effect if a metallic reflective layer is too thick, it is good to be desirably referred to [10nm or less] as 3nm or less. Moreover, since it is ineffective if too thin, it is good the thickness of at least 0.5nm or more, and to be desirably referred to as 1nm or more.

[0062] As mentioned above, in the case of drawing 2, the case where a laminating was carried out to order from the Fe-M-O layer 2 was described, but a laminating may be conversely carried out to the order of free layer 5 / non-magnetic layer 4 / fixed bed 3 / Fe-M-O layer 2 through a direct or substrate layer on a substrate. Although this structure becomes a little small [the pinning effectiveness] compared with the configuration of drawing 2, depending on the configuration of a component, such its a configuration may be effective and it can be used as a MR component.

[0063] Moreover, although the above explained the case of the usual MR component, in order to obtain still bigger MR ratio, the MR component 300 which has the configuration of a dual spin bulb as shown in <u>drawing 3</u> is also good. In this case, as a magnetization rotation control layer 6 of the maximum upper layer, a Fe-M-O layer, NiO(s), or these compound layers (cascade screen) may be used. In order to obtain desirable more big MR ratio, it is appropriate to use a Fe-M-O layer. It is appropriate to use the metal antiferromagnetic substance, such as Fe-Mn, nickel-Mn, Pd-Mn, Pt-Mn, Ir-Mn, and Fe-Ir, from a viewpoint of electrode formation of MR component or MR head formation. In this, the viewpoint of thermal stability to Pt-Mn is the best. As a suitable presentation of 1-Z layer of PtZMn(s), it is an atomic composition ratio and 0.4<=z<=0.6 is good.

[0064] On the other hand, although the example of a configuration of <u>drawing 3</u> explained the case where it constituted from a Fe-M-O layer 2, the Fe-M-O layer 2 and the magnetization rotation control layer 6 may be constituted conversely.

[0065] When using NiO and alpha-Fe 2O3 in the above, NiO is formed on a substrate 1, alpha-Fe 2O3 is formed on NiO, and, as for the fixed bed 3, it is desirable from a viewpoint of thermal stability or membranous surface smoothness for pinning to be carried out by alpha-Fe 2O3. Furthermore, although the NiO film is good in this case at about 10nm, as for 2Oalpha-Fe 3 film, it is desirable that it is thicker than this.

[0066] In addition, as the formation approach of each class described above, the sputtering

method is suitable. Although there are the DC sputtering method, an RF sputtering method, the ion beam sputtering method, etc. as a sputtering method, MR component of this invention is producible by any approach.

[0067] An MR head can be constituted using MR component of this invention which was described above. An example of the configuration of MR head 30 is shown in <u>drawing 5</u>. Drawing which looked at <u>drawing 5</u> from the direction of an arrow head A is <u>drawing 4</u>, and the cross section cut at the flat surface shown by the dotted line B is shown in <u>drawing 6</u>. Hereafter, it explains focusing on <u>drawing 4</u>.

[0068] MR component section 9 consists of drawing 4 so that it may be inserted into the shielding gaps 14 and 11 of the upper part and the lower part. As shielding gap material, the insulator layer of aluminum 203 and SiO2 grade is used. Although the shielding 15 and 10 of an outside of the upper part and the lower part is the shielding gaps 14 and 11, as for this, soft magnetism film, such as a nickel-Fe alloy, is used. The bias field by the hard bias sections 12, such as a Co-Pt alloy, is added for magnetic-domain control of MR component section 9. Although the case where the hard film was used as the impression approach of bias was explained here, it is also the same as when the antiferromagnetic substance, such as Fe-Mn, is used. It insulates with shielding 10 and 15 grades with shielding caps 11 and 14, and MR component section 9 reads resistance change of MR component section 9 by passing a current through the lead section 13.

[0069] Moreover, by reading, since an MR head is an exclusive head, it is usually used combining the induction type head for writing. It reads to <u>drawing 6</u> and drawing 7, and not only the head section 32 but the write—in head section 31 is drawn collectively. Drawing at the time of writing in <u>drawing 4</u> further and forming the head section 31 is drawing 7 A. There is an up core 16 formed through the record gap layer 40 as the write—in head section 31 on the up shielding 15. [0070] In addition, although drawing 7 A explained the MR head structure by the conventional Ava Ted junction (abutted junction), the MR head structure using the overlay (overlaid) structure shown in drawing 7 B as for which regulation of the width of recording track 41 is made more to a precision with the formation of a ** truck by densification is also effective.

[0071] Next, the mechanism of record playback of MR head 50 is explained using drawing 6. As shown in drawing 6, in case it records, the magnetic flux generated according to the current passed in the coil 17 can record on leakage and a magnetic disk 21 from between the up core 16 and the up shielding 15. Since MR head 30 progresses in the direction of an arrow head c relatively to a disk 21, it can reverse the direction 23 of record magnetization by reversing the current passed in a coil 17. Moreover, since the record length 22 becomes short in connection with densification, it is necessary to make the record cap length 19 small in connection with it. [0072] In reproducing, the magnetic flux 24 which leaked from the record magnetization section of a magnetic disk 21 acts on MR component section 9 inserted into shielding 10 and 15, and changes resistance of MR component section 9. In MR component section 9, since the current is flowing through the lead section 13, change of resistance can be read as change (output) of an electrical potential difference.

[0073] <u>Drawing 8</u> shows the configuration of the York mold head which used MR component of this invention. The York mold head 80 is equipped with MR component section 9, the York section 81, the insulator layer section 82, the record pole section 18, and the winding section 83. The record playback gap 20 is formed as the York section 81 and the record pole section 18. [0074] Next, the manufacture approach of an MR head can be explained like an outline and drawing 9.

[0075] That is, as shown in <u>drawing 4</u>, after performing processing suitable on a substrate first, the lower shielding film 10 is formed (S801). Furthermore, after forming the lower shielding gap 11 (S802), MR component section 9 is formed (S803). next, MR — bamboo — after carrying out patterning of the section 9 (S804), the hard bias section 12 and the lead section 13 are formed (S805, S806). Next, the up shielding gap 14 and the up shielding 15 are formed (S807, S808). Then, the write—in head section 31 as shown in drawing 7 A is formed, and MR head 30 is completed (S809).

[0076] With reference to drawing 10, the manufacture approach of MR component section 9 explained by S803 is explained in more detail. The Fe-M-O layer 2 is formed by carrying out

sputtering of the target which consists of Fe-M-O on the nonmagnetic substrate 1 as shown in drawing 2 (S901). Next, on the Fe-M-O layer 2, the laminating of the fixed bed 3, a non-magnetic layer 4, and the free layer 5 is carried out one by one, and MR component section 9 is formed (S902).

[0077] In addition, when manufacturing the MR component 300 shown in drawing 3, on the free layer 5, the laminating of a non-magnetic layer 4, the fixed bed 3, and the magnetization rotation control layer 6 is carried out further one by one, and MR component section is formed. [0078] If the densification of a future hard disk drive is taken into consideration, there is the need of shortening record wavelength and it is necessary to shorten distance d during shielding shown in drawing 4 for that purpose (distance 18 of drawing 6). For that purpose, it is necessary to make MR component section 9 thin, and, as for the thickness of MR component section 9 except an antiferromagnetic substance layer, it is desirable to be referred to as at least 20nm or less so that clearly from drawing 4. Moreover, since they are insulators, when it exists as a part of shielding gap 11 by drawing 4 as some insulators, the limit about thickness has few Fe-M-O layers 2 which are the antiferromagnetic substance concerning this invention. However, when the Fe-M-O layer 2 exists as a part of MR component section 9, as thin one as possible is desirable and should set 40nm or less to 20nm or less desirably.

[0079] Moreover, in MR component section 9, in order to press down generating of a Barkhausen noise at the time of the flux reversal of the soft magnetism film, the easy axis of <u>drawing 2</u> and the free layer 5 of 3 is good to be constituted so that it may become an outline perpendicular in the direction of a signal field which should be detected.
[0080]

[Example] The switched connection film, MR component, and the MR head of this invention are explained using a concrete example below.

[0081] (Example 1) Multitarget sputtering equipment was used for production of the switched connection film as shown in an example 1. Fe 203 and Co0.9Fe0.1 were used for the target. On 20Fe3 target, the tip of Ti 203 was placed (Fe1-XTiX), and 203 film was formed.

[0082] After exhausting the inside of a vacuum chamber to 1x10 to 8 or less Torrs, the sputtering method was used on the glass substrate with the sink, and the switched connection film 100 of the configuration of <u>drawing 1</u> was produced so that Ar gas might be set to about 0.8 mTorr(s). The detail of samples, such as thickness of each class, is shown below. Here, the inside of a parenthesis shows the thickness of each class per nm. In Fe 2O3, in the case of others, DC cathode was used, using rf cathode as a cathode.

[0083] The produced switched connection film was held in temperature of 250 degrees C for 1 hour, impressing the field of about 80 kA/m in a vacuum (1kOe). Then, the magnetization curve was measured at the room temperature using the oscillating sample mold magnetometer. [0084] The configuration of the magnetization curve by which 1:(Fe1-XTiX) 2OA3 (50) / Co0.9Fe0.1 (10) measurement was carried out is typically shown in drawing 11. Since a 2 (Fe1-XTiX)O3-layer magnetization rotation control layer does not almost have magnetization, Co0.9Fe0.1 will look at the magnetization curve of the switched connection film 100. In the magnetization curve of drawing 11, although the center of gravity has shifted from the zero, this shift amount is set to Hua. The shift amount Hua expresses the strength of exchange bias. Moreover, the one half of the width of face of an intersection with the impression field shaft of a magnetization curve defines a shift amount Hc. A shift amount Hc also tends to become large by the exchange bias field, when the magnetization rotation control layer of oxide is used. [0085] The value of Hua and Hc which were calculated from the magnetization curve of the switched connection film 100 is shown in drawing 12. x of an axis of abscissa shows the atomic

[0086] From <u>drawing 12</u>, by introducing Ti shows that Hua is increasing. By installation of Ti, as for this, low-temperature heat treatment also means comparatively that induction of the one direction anisotropy came to be carried out. However, if Ti is introduced too much, Hua will fall conversely.

[0087] Moreover, although the above explained the case where the tip of Ti 2O3 was placed on 2OFe3 target, as the film production approach of 2 (Fe1-XTiX)O3 film, it is also possible to use an alloy target. Moreover, the approach of setting the chip of Ti on 2OFe3 target may be used.

composition ratio x in 2 (Fe1-xMx)O3. And it is M=Ti.

However, it is necessary to mix not only Ar gas but oxygen gas as sputtering gas, and to be especially careful in this case, so that an atomic composition ratio (Fe/Ti) / O may become outlines 1.2-1.6.

[0088] By drawing 11, although Hua and Hc are falling greatly in the presentation field of x > 0.4, magnetization may occur in 2 (Fe1-XTiX)O3 layers, and one of the cause of this may have become the ferrimagnetic substance.

[0089] Also when an atomic composition ratio (Fe/Ti) / O has shifted from 1.2-1.6, magnetization may occur, and Hua falls also at this time. Moreover, when 2 (Fe1-XTiX)O3 film has magnetization, magnetic flux may occur from there and trouble may be caused to use of the switched connection film 100.

[0090] Although the above explained the case where Ti was added as a permutation element, the sample A2 of the film which permuted Fe atom of 2Oalpha–Fe 3 film by aluminum, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V, etc. was produced similarly. Moreover, heat treatment as well as the case of Ti was performed.

[0091] A2:(Fe0.9M0.1)2O3(50)/Co0.9Fe0.1(10)

The value of Hua and Hc of this switched connection film was evaluated like aluminum. The result is shown in (Table 1).

[0092]

[Table 1]

M	(Fe凸松金瓜)	Hua (KA/m)	Hc (KA/m)
	国数世军	0.1	12.0
	AI	10.2	5.5
	Co	7.7	6.2
	Mn	13.5	7.6
	Cr	8.4	4.4
	Ni	4.3	9.2
	A	3.9	8.8

[0093] As shown in (Table 1), by permuting Fe atom of Fe2O3 film by aluminum, Co, Mn, Cr, nickel, V, etc. shows that Hua is increasing.

[0094] Moreover, the switched connection film 100 which permuted Fe atom of 20Fe3 film in Sn, Sb, and germanium was similarly created as an example of a comparison. However, the presentation was adjusted so that it might be set to (Fe/M)/O=1.2-1.6 (M is among Sn, Sb, and germanium, is worn, and is **) also in this case.

[0095] Consequently, Hua did not increase, but Hc only fell and the pinning effectiveness of the ferromagnetic layer 3 which is the fixed bed fell.

[0096] (Example 2) MR component as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> was produced like the example 1 using multitarget sputtering equipment. Using Si substrate as a substrate 1, as a magnetization roll control layer, as the Fe-aluminum-O layer 2 and a ferromagnetic layer of the fixed bed 3, Cu was used as Co and a non-magnetic layer 4, and nickel0.58Fe0.20Co0:12 was used as a free layer 5. In this case, it is referred to as aluminum/(Fe+aluminum) =0.05/1, and was made to be set to an outline (Fe+aluminum) / O=1.2-1.6 as an atomic composition ratio of a Fe-aluminum-O layer. It was made for the thickness of each class etc. to be the following.

[0097] B1:Fe-Al-O(35)/Co(2)/Cu(2)/Ni0.68Fe0.20Co0.12(5)

Thus, by the same approach as an example 1, produced MR component was heat-treated at 250 degrees C for 30 minutes.

[0098] Thus, the field of a maximum of 40 kA/m was impressed at the room temperature, and the direct-current 4 terminal method estimated the MR property of the produced MR component B1. The result is shown in Table 2. For the comparison, 203 layer of Fe(s) were used instead of the Fe-aluminum-O layer, and the approach with the same said of the sample B0 of MR component completely created similarly estimated MR property.

[0099]

[Table 2]

試料番号		MR出	Нр
B0	Fe ₂ O ₃	13.7	10
B1	Fe-Al-O	12.9	21

[0100] MR curve of the sample of (Table 2) serves as an outline and a form as shown in <u>drawing 13</u>. If a big field is impressed to a minus side at first by <u>drawing 13</u>, both the magnetization directions of the free layer 5 and the fixed bed 3 will turn to the equal direction (a). If a field is decreased gradually and it is reversed from this to + side, the magnetization direction of the free layer 5 will be reversed first, and resistance will go up (b). Furthermore, if an external magnetic field is made to increase, shortly, the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 is also reversed and it will be in the condition of (c), and resistance will fall and will serve as level of a basis. This reversal field is set to Hp, and the result measured about the above—mentioned sample is combined with MR ratio, and is shown in Table 2.

[0101] The result of (Table 2) shows that the sample B1 of this invention has the high pinning field HP equal in respect of MR ratio and compared with the sample B0 of the conventional example.

[0102] Moreover, sample B-2 which the free layer 5 becomes from two or more magnetic layers through a non-magnetic layer 4 completely like a sample B1 is created.

[0103] B2:Fe-Al-O(35)/Co(2)/Cu(2)/Ni0.68Fe0.20Co0.12(2)/Cu(1)/Ni0.68Fe0.20Co0.12(2) The same approach as a sample B1 estimated sample B-2. Consequently, although MR ratio and Hp were almost changeless compared with the sample B1, the soft magnetic characteristics of the free layer 5 have been improved, and, as for sample B-2 of this invention, the coercive force of a soft magnetism layer fell from about 800 A/m to 400 A/m. Thus, by constituting the free layer 5 from a magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out through the non-magnetic layer 4], the soft magnetic characteristics of the free layer 5 can be improved, and the field sensibility of MR component can be raised.

[0104] Moreover, B3:Fe-aluminum-O(35) / Co(2) / Ru(0.6)/Co(2) / nickel0.68Fe0.20Co0.12 (5) using Co (Co(2) / Ru(0.6)/Co(2 which carried out antiferromagnetism switched connection instead of 2)) as the fixed bed 3 completely like the sample B1

It produced and the same approach as a sample B1 estimated. Although MR ratio fell 2.1% compared with the sample B1, as for the sample B3 of this this invention, it turned out that there is no effect of the bias to the free layer 5 by the magnetic pole which Hp becomes 40 or more kA/m, and is generated in the end face of the fixed bed 3.

[0105] Next, MR head 30 as shows the sample B1 of this invention and the sample B0 of the example of a comparison to drawing 5 using the MR component 9 was constituted, and the property was evaluated. In this case, aluminum 203 was used for the shielding gaps 11 and 14 at shielding 10 and 15 material using nickel0.8Fe0.2 alloy, using an aluminum203-TiC substrate as a substrate. Moreover, in the hard bias section 12, the lead section 13 consisted of Au(s) using the Co-Pt alloy. Moreover, the anisotropy was given to the magnetic layer (the free layer 5 and fixed bed 3) so that it might become the direction of a signal field and perpendicular which the easy direction of magnetization of the free layer 5 should detect, and it might become the direction of a signal field and parallel which the direction of the easy axis of the fixed bed 3 should detect. After it heat—treated this approach at 270 degrees C among the field and it specified the direction of the easy axis of the fixed bed 3 first after creating MR component, further, it was heat—treated at 180 degrees C, specified the direction of the easy axis of the free layer 5, and performed it.

[0106] The sink and the AC signal field of about 3 kA/m were impressed to these MR heads for a direct current as a sense current, and the output of both heads was evaluated. Consequently, the output of the MR head using MR component of the sample B1 of this invention was almost equivalent to the conventional MR head which used MR component of a sample B0. However, after direct-current field impression had [the magnetic head using B1 of this invention to the output having become unstable, as for the MR head using the sample B0 of the example of a comparison] the output stable when the direct-current field of 15 kA/m was once impressed and was removed during measurement.

[0107] (Example 3) By the same approach as an example 2, the MR component 200 of the configuration of drawing 2 was created. However, it was referred to as aluminum/(Fe+aluminum) = 0.1/1, Ti/(Fe+Ti) = 0.1/1, Mn/(Fe+Co) = 0.2/1, Cr/(Fe+Co) = 0.2/1, and Cr/(Fe+Cr) = 0.1/1. In this case, the thing of a complex type as shown below was also created as a magnetization rotation control layer. Cu layer attached at the end is the antioxidizing film.

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 \begin{array}{l} \text{C1:Fe-Al-O(20)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C2:Fe-Co-O(20)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C3:Fe-Cr-O(20)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C4:NiO(10)/Fe-Al-O(10)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C5:Fe-Ti-O(10)/Fe-Co-O(10)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C6:Fe-Mn-O(20)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C7:Fe-Ti-O(10)/Fe-Al-O(10)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C8:Fe2O3(20)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C9:NiO/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Cu(1)} \\ \text{C10:(Fe0.9Al0.1)2O3(10)/NiO(10)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2.2)/Co0.85Fe0.15(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Cu(1)} \\ \text{Created MR component was heat-treated for 30 minutes at 250 degrees C by the same approach as an example 1.} \\ \end{array}
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[0108] The completely same approach as an example 2 estimated MR property. The result is shown in Table 3.

[0109]

[Table 3	3]	
試物發号	MR比	Нр
C1	13.7	12.2
C2	16.2	38.5
C3	13.8	15.5
C4	12.9	23.5
C5	16.0°	36.0
C6	17.0	22.5
С7	15.1	25.3
C8.	6.3	7.6
C9	3.8	5.4
Č10	13.3	17.7

[0110] As shown above, compared with the samples C8 and C9 of the conventional example, since the exchange bias field Hp is large, sample C1–C7 of this invention and C10 can tend to realize the anti-parallel condition of magnetization, and MR ratio becomes large. In MR ratio, a Fe-Mn-O layer and a Fe-Co-O layer are especially effective. Moreover, compared with samples C1 and C10, sample C2–C7 has large Hp. In Hp, a Fe-Co-O layer is especially effective. [0111] Although the above explained MR component of this invention, also in the switched connection film which constitutes MR component, the switched connection film of show [the exchange bias property of having excelled the conventional switched connection film] of this invention is clear from the above-mentioned example.

[0112] (Example 4) By the same approach as an example 1, the MR component 300 of the dual spin bulb film shown in drawing 3 was created.

[0113] In this case, it was referred to as an outline, aluminum/(Fe+aluminum) =0.05/1, (Fe+aluminum)/0=1.2-1.6, Ti/(Fe+Ti) =0.05/1, (Fe+Ti)/0=1.2-1.6, Mn/(Fe+Mn) =0.02/1, and Co/(Fe+Co) =0.2/1.

(Fe+Co) =0.2/1.
D1:Fe2O3(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Ir-Mn(8)
D2:Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Ir-Mn(8
D3:Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30)

D4:Fe-Mn-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30)
D5:NiO(10)/Fo-Co-O(30)/Co(3

D5:NiO(10)/Fe-Co-O(20)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30)

D6:Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Ir-Mn(8)

D7: Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8 Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)

D8: Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8 Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30)/Co(3)

D9:Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0:2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/NiO(30)

D11:Fe-AI-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/PtMn(20)

After heat-treating by the same approach as an example 1 about the above MR component, the MR effectiveness was measured by the same approach as an example 2. The result is shown in Table 4.

[0114]

[Table 4]

号番牌店	MR比
D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 D7 D8 D9 D10	13.5 20.5 23.9 28.0 28.0 20.3 20.8 26.2 21.5 23.6 19.9
ווט	13.3

[0115] Compared with the sample D1 of the conventional example, sample D2-D10 of MR component of the example of this invention shows big MR ratio.

[0116] By drawing 3, since the pinning effectiveness of the magnetization rotation control layer of the Fe-M-O layer 2 is large, the magnetization direction of the fixed bed 3 is fixed, and this is considered because the anti-parallel condition of magnetization is well realized between the free layers 5. Moreover, although samples D2, D6, and D11 have a little small MR ratio, compared with sample D3-D5 and sample D7-D9, its pinning effectiveness of the magnetization rotation control layer 6 is large.

[0117] Moreover, MR component shown in the following of the type with which the free layer 5 consists of a magnetic layer through a non-magnetic layer 4 of three layers completely like a sample D3 was created.

 $\label{eq:decomposition} D10: Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8 Fe0.2(1.5)/Cu(0.6)/Ni0.8 Fe0.2(1.5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30)$

The same approach as a sample D3 estimated the sample D10. Consequently, although MR ratio and Hp were [the sample D10 of this invention] almost changeless compared with the sample D3, the soft magnetic characteristics of the free layer 5 have been improved, and the coercive force of a soft magnetism layer fell from about 800 A/m to 250 A/m. Thus, by constituting the free layer 5 from a magnetic layer more than two-layer [by which the laminating was carried out through the non-magnetic layer 4], the soft magnetic characteristics of the free layer 5 can be improved, and the field sensibility of MR component can be raised.

[0118] Moreover, although MR ratio fell 3.5% when following D12 using Co (Co(2) / Ru(0.7)/Co(3)) which carried out antiferromagnetism association instead of 3)) as the fixed bed was created completely like the sample D11 and it was similarly estimated as the sample D11, Hp became Dabout 3 times 11.

 $\label{eq:decomposition} D12:Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(2)/Ru(0.7)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni0.8Fe0.2(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Ru(0.7)/Co(2)/Pt-Mn(20)$

[0119] (Example 5) First, surface treatment of the glass substrate was carried out using the ion beam on various conditions, and surface roughness was changed. Thus, MR component shown below was produced by the approach as an example 2 that it is completely the same on the processed glass substrate.

[0120] E:Fe-Co-O(8)/Co0.85Fe0.15(2)/Cu(2)/Ni0.68Fe0.20Co0.12(3)

The surface roughness and MR ratio of a sample which were created are shown in Table 5. The surface roughness in this case was evaluated using STM (Scanning Tunneling microscope). On the front face of the sample of 10mm angle, ten 10nmx10nm area was chosen at random, and the difference of the highest point about each area and a low point was made into the surface roughness of the area, and it was averaged by ten places and it considered as the surface roughness of the sample.

[0121]

[Table 5] 表面狙き(nm)	MR比(%)
0.38	13.3
0.45	12.9
0.52	8.6
0.68	4.3
1.22	2.7

[0122] The result of Table 5 shows that, as for a thing 0.5nm or less, surface roughness shows big MR ratio.

[0123] (Example 6) York mold MR head 80 shown in <u>drawing 8</u> using the sample D7 mentioned above in the example 4 was produced.

[0124] In this case, the aluminum—O super—thin film with a thickness of 2nm produced by the plasma oxidation method was used for the insulator layer 17 of <u>drawing 8</u>. Moreover, the Co—Nb—Zr system amorphous alloy film of high permeability was used for the York section 16. Thus, when the output of the produced York mold MR head and the output with the MR head completely created by the same approach, using the sample D1 of an example 5 as a MR component were measured, it turned out that the output rise of abbreviation +3db is realized. [0125]

[Effect of the Invention] The switched connection film using the magnetization rotation control layer of the oxide of this invention gives a big exchange bias field to a ferromagnetic compared with the conventional thing. Consequently, the magnetization direction of the fixed bed is stabilized and the switched connection film, MR component, and the MR head which show MR ratio with good and big thermal stability can be obtained.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The mimetic diagram of the cross section of the switched connection film of this invention.

[Drawing 2] The mimetic diagram of the cross section of MR component of this invention.

[Drawing 3] The mimetic diagram of the cross section of another MR component of this invention.

[Drawing 4] Drawing showing an example of the sectional view of the MR head of this invention.

[Drawing 5] Pictorial drawing of the MR head of this invention.

[Drawing 6] One sectional view of the MR head of this invention, and a magnetic disk.

[Drawing 7 A] One sectional view of the recording head one apparatus MR head of this invention.

[Drawing 7 B] One sectional view of other MR heads of this invention.

[Drawing 8] The sectional view of the MR head of further others of this invention.

[Drawing 9] An example of the flow chart which shows the production process of the MR head of this invention.

[Drawing 10] An example of the flow chart which shows the production process of MR component section 9 of this invention.

Drawing 11 Drawing showing an example of the magnetization curve of the switched connection film of this invention.

[Drawing 12] (Fe1-xTix) Drawing showing the x dependencies of Hc and Hua of 2O3 (50) / Co0.9Fe0.1 (10) film.

[Drawing 13] Drawing showing an example of MR curve of MR component of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Substrate
- 2 Fe-M-O Layer
- 3 Ferromagnetic Layer (Fixed Bed)
- 4 Non-magnetic Layer
- 5 Free Layer
- 6 Magnetization Rotation Control Layer
- 9 MR Component Section
- 10 Lower Shielding
- 11 Lower Shielding Gap
- 12 Hard Bias Section
- 13 Lead Section
- 14 Up Shielding Gap
- 15 Up Shielding

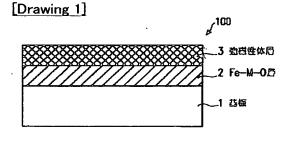
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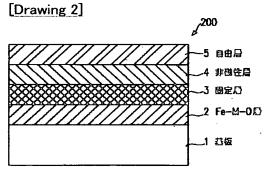
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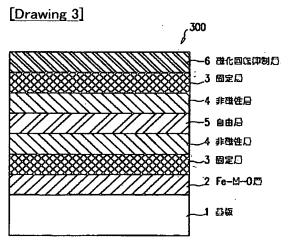
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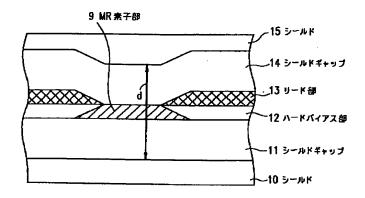
DRAWINGS

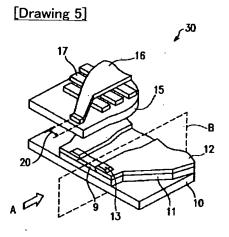


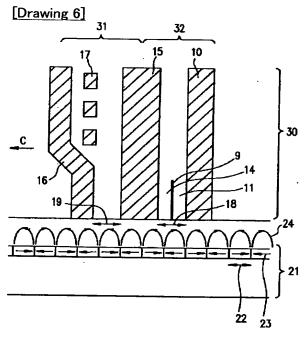




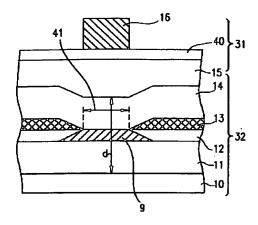
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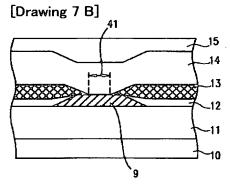


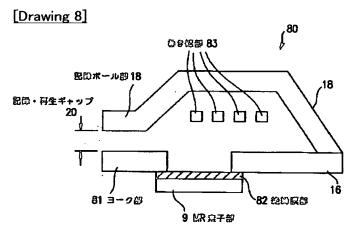




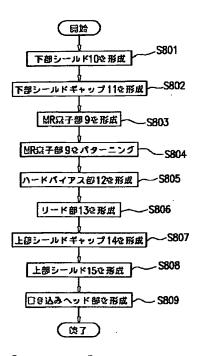
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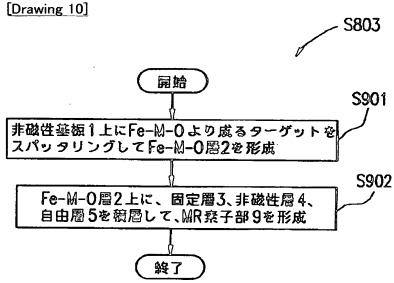


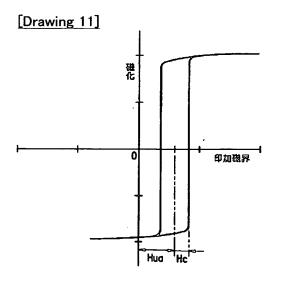




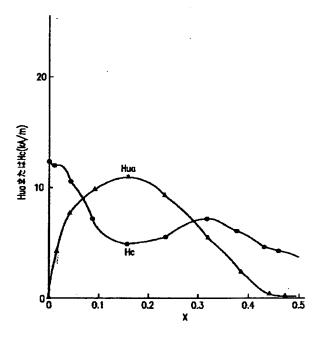
[Drawing 9]

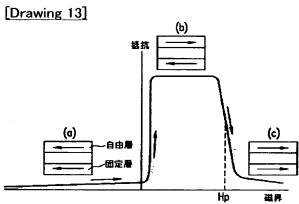






[Drawing 12]





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(19)日本国特許庁(JP)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特關平11-266044

(43)公開日 平成11年(1999)9月28日

(51) Int.Cl. ⁶	設別記号	FΙ		
H01L 43/08		HOIL 4	13/08 Z	
G11B 5/39		G11B	5/39	
HO1F 10/08		H01F 1	10/08 A	
G11B 5/39				

密査請求 有 請求項の録27 OL (全 15 頁)

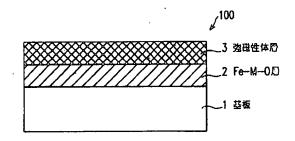
(21)出顾番号	特 頤平10-327327	(71)出貿人	000005821
			松下包器産業株式会社
(22)出頭日	平成10年(1998)11月17日	•	大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地
		(72)発明者	川分 康博
(31) 母先約主張番号	韓國平9−314940		大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器
(32) 哲先日	平9 (1997)11月17日		<u> </u>
(33) 優先超主張国	日本 (JP)	(72)発明者	静岡 梅
(31) 公先约主强番号	特 阿平9 -352614		大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器
(32) 母先日	平 9 (1997)12月22日		産授株式会社内
(33) 丹先紅主張国	日本 (JP)	(72)発明者	単見 三男
(31) 任先灯主報番号	特団平10-6681	W-7,674	大阪府門東市大字門東1006番地 松下喧嚣
(32) 公先日	平10(1998) 1月16日		商證券式会社内
(33) 紅先約主張国	日本 (JP)	(74)代理人	弁理士 山本 発策
(AA) BTARITTERE		(1.5),(2.5)	最終質に焼く
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(54) 【発明の名称】 交換法合膜、磁気抵抗効果素子、磁気抵抗効果型ヘッドおよび磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 熱的安定性が良好であり、大きなMR比を示す交換結合膜、MR素子およびMRヘッドを得る。

【解決手段】 交換結合膜100は、基板1と多層膜とから成り、該多層膜は、強磁性体層3と該強磁性体層3 に隣接して設けられ該強磁性体層3の磁化回転を抑制する磁化回転抑制層とを含んでおり、該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層2(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)とを含んでいる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 基板と多層膜とから成り、

該多層膜は、強磁性体層と該強磁性体層に隣接して設けられ該強磁性体層の磁化回転を抑制する磁化回転抑制層 とを含んでいる交換結合膜であって、

該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層(M=AI、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)とを含んでいる交換結合膜。

【請求項2】 該磁化回転抑制層は、($Fe_{1-X}M_X$)2 〇3層(M=A1、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、 $0.01 \le x \le 0.4$)を含んでいる、請求項1に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項3】 該磁化回転抑制層は、NiO層をさらに 含んでいる、請求項1に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項4】 該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M'-O層 (M'=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) をさらに含んでおり、

該Fe-M'-O層と該Fe-M-O層とは元素の組成が異なっている、請求項1に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項5】 該多層膜の表面粗さが概略0.5 nm以下である、請求項1に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項6】 該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5 n m以上 100 n m以下である、請求項1に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項7】 該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5 nm以上 5 0 nm以下である、請求項6 に記載の交換結合膜。

【請求項8】 該磁化回転抑制層と該強磁性体層とが形成された後、磁界中において150℃-350℃で交換結合膜が熱処理されている、請求項1に記載の交換結合 憶.

【請求項9】 基板と多層膜とから成り、

該多層膜は、少なくとも2つの強磁性体層と非磁性層と 該強磁性体層の1つの磁化回転を抑制する磁化回転抑制 層とを含んでおり、

該強磁性体層は該非磁性層を挟んで積層されており、

該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、該1つの該強磁性体層に対して該非磁性層の反対側に他方の該強磁性体層と接して設けられた該磁化回転抑制層によって磁化方向が固定された固定層であり、

該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、磁化方向が自由に回転できる自由層であり、

該固定層の磁化方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度 の変化により電気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子であって、

該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)を含んでいる磁気抵抗効果素子。

【 請求項 10 】 該磁化回転抑制層は、 $(Fe_{1-X}M_X)$ $2O_3$ 層(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、 $0.01 \le x \le 0.4)を含んでいる、 請求項 <math>9$ に配載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項11】 該磁化回転抑制層は、NiO層をさらに含んでいる、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項12】 該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M'-O 層(M'=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) をさらに含んでおり、

該Fe-M'-O層と該Fe-M-O層とは元素の組成が異なっている、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項13】 該多層膜の表面粗さが概略0.5 nm 以下である、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項14】 該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5nm以上100nm以下である、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項15】 該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5nm以上50nm以下である、請求項14に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項16】 該磁化回転抑制層と該強磁性体層とが 形成された後、磁界中において150℃-350℃で磁 気抵抗効果素子が熱処理されている、請求項9に記載の 磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項17】 該多層膜は、基板上に第1の磁化回転抑制層と、第1の固定層と、第1の非磁性層と、強磁性体から成る自由層と、第2の非磁性層と、第2の固定層と、第2の磁化回転抑制層とを順次積層して成り、

該第1の磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層 (M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) を含んでおり、

該第1の磁化回転抑制層は、該第1の固定層の磁化方向 を固定し、

該第2の磁化回転抑制層は、該第2の固定層の磁化方向 を固定する、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項18】 該第1の磁化回転抑制層は、(Fe $_{1-X}M_X$) $_2O_3$ 層(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、0.01 \le x \le 0.4)を含んでいる、請求項17に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項19】 該第2の磁化回転抑制層は、NiOまたはFe-M-O層(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)のいずれかを含んでいる、請求項17に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項20】 該自由層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の非磁性層を挟んで積層された2層以上の磁性層とを含む、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項21】 該自由層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の非磁性層を挟んで積層された2層以上の磁性層とを含む、請求項17に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項22】 該固定層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の非磁性層を介して反強磁性的に交換結合した2つの磁性層とを含む、請求項9に配載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項23】 該少なくとも一方の固定層は、第3の 非磁性層と、該第3の非磁性層を介して反強磁性的に交 換結合した2つの磁性層とを含む、請求項17に記載の 磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項24】 請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子 と、該磁気抵抗効果素子とシールド部とを絶縁するシー ルドギャップ部とを備えている磁気抵抗効果型ヘッド。 【請求項25】 請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子 ٤.

該磁気抵抗効果素子へ検知すべき磁界を導入するヨーク) 部とを備えている磁気抵抗効果型ヘッド。

【請求項26】 基板と多層膜とから成り、

該多層膜は、少なくとも2つの強磁性体層と非磁性層と 該強磁性体層の磁化回転を抑制する磁化回転抑制層とを 含んでおり、

該少なくとも2つの強磁性体層は該非磁性層を挟んで積 層されており、

該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、該強磁性体層 に対して該非磁性層の反対側に該強磁性体層と接して設 けられた該磁化回転抑制層によって、磁化方向が固定さ れた固定層であり、

該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、磁化方向が自 由に回転できる自由層であり、

該固定層の磁化方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度 の変化により電気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子の製 造方法であって、

基板上に該磁化回転抑制層を形成する第1工程と、

該磁化回転抑制層上に該固定層、該非磁性層および該自 由層を順次積層する第2工程とを含んでおり、

該第1工程は、主な成分がFe-M-O (M=Al、T i、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) から成るターゲット をスパッタリングする工程を包含する磁気抵抗効果素子 の製造方法。

【請求項27】 基板上に第1の磁化回転抑制層と、第 1の固定層と、第1の非磁性層と、強磁性体から成る自 由層と、第2の非磁性層と、第2の固定層と、第2の磁 化回転抑制層とを順次積層して成る多層膜を含み、

該第1の磁化回転抑制層は該第1の固定層の磁化方向を 固定し、

該第2の磁化回転抑制層は該第2の固定層の磁化方向を

該第1の固定層の磁化方向および該第2の固定層の磁化 方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度の変化により電 気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法であっ て、

該基板上に該第1の磁化回転抑制層を形成する第1工程 と、

該第1の磁化回転抑制層上に該第1の固定層、該第1の 非磁性層、該自由層、該第2の非磁性層および該第2の 固定層を順次積層する第2工程と、

該第2の固定層上に該第2の磁化回転抑制層を形成する 第3工程とを含んでおり、

該第1工程および該第3工程は、主な成分がFe-M-

O (M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)か ら成るターゲットをスパッタリングする工程を包含する 磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は強磁性体の磁化方向 を固定するための交換結合膜、それを用いて構成される 低磁界で大きな磁気抵抗変化をおこす磁気抵抗効果素 子、それを用いて構成される高密度磁気記録再生に適し た磁気抵抗効果型ヘッドおよび磁気抵抗効果素子の製造 方法に関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】近年、ハードディスクドライブの高密度 化は著しく、媒体に記録された磁化を読みとる再生磁気 ヘッドの進歩も著しい。中でも巨大磁気抵抗効果を利用 したスピンバルブと呼ばれる磁気抵抗効果素子(以下 「MR素子」という。) は、現在用いられている磁気抵 抗効果型ヘッド(以下「MRヘッド」という。)の感度 を大幅に向上させるものとして盛んに研究されている。 【0003】MR素子は、非磁性層を介して2つの強磁 性体層が配置され、一方の強磁性体層(以下「固定層」 ともいう。) の磁化方向を磁化回転抑制層による交換バ イアス磁界で固定し(この時の強磁性体層と磁化回転抑 制層とを合わせて「交換結合膜」という。)、他方の強 磁性体層(以下「自由層」ともいう。)の磁化方向を外 部磁界に応じて比較的自由に動かすことにより、固定層 の磁化方向と自由層の磁化方向との相対角度を変化させ て、電気抵抗の変化を生じさせるものである。

【00.04】 MR素子に用いられる材料に関しては、強 磁性体層としてNiFe、非磁性層としてCu、磁化回 転抑制層としてFe-Mnを用いたもので磁気低抗変化 率 (以下「MR比」という。) が約2%のものが提案さ れた (ジャーナル オブ マグネティズム アンド マ グネティック マテリアルズ 93 第101頁(19 91年) (Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials 9 3、p101、1991))。このように、磁化回転抑 制層としてFeMnを用いたものはMR比が小さく、ま たブロッキング温度(磁化回転抑制層による固定層の磁 化固定効果が無くなる温度)が十分高くなく、またFe Mn自体の耐食性に難点があるので、FeMn以外の種 々の磁化回転抑制層を用いたMR素子が提案されてい

【0005】中でも、NiOや、α-Fe₂O₃等の酸化 物を磁化回転抑制層として用いたMR素子は、MR比が 15%以上と飛躍的に大きいものが期待できる。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、NiO はプロッキング温度が十分高くない。このため、NiO を用いたMR素子の熱的安定性には問題がある。

【0007】また、α-Fe₂O₃から成る磁化回転抑制 層を用いたMR素子は、その磁化回転抑制層の厚さが薄 い場合は固定層の反転磁界が十分大きくならない。特に デュアルスピンバルブ構造を有するMR素子の場合や固 定層上にα-Fe₂O₃層を形成した構造を有するMR素 子の場合には、上部の $\alpha - F e_2O_3$ 層において固定層の 反転磁界が十分大きくならないという傾向が顕著であ る。又、NiOと同様の熱的安定性の課題があり、さら に磁界中での成膜時や低温での磁界中熱処理における異 方性制御の課題があり実用的でない。

【0008】本発明の目的は、熱的安定性が良好であ り、大きなMR比を示す交換結合膜、MR素子、MRへ ッドおよびMR素子の製造方法を得ることにある。 [0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明に係る交換結合膜 は、基板と多層膜とから成り、該多層膜は、強磁性体層 と該強磁性体層に隣接して設けられ該強磁性体層の磁化 回転を抑制する磁化回転抑制層とを含んでいる交換結合 膜であって、該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層 (M =Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) とを含ん でおりこれにより上記目的が達成される。

[0010] 該磁化回転抑制層は、(Fe_{1-X}M_X)₂O₃ 層(M=A1、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、 0.01≦x≦0.4)を含んでいてもよい。

【0011】該磁化回転抑制層は、NiO層をさらに含 んでいてもよい。

【0012】該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M'-O層 (M' = A 1, T i, Co, Mn, Cr, N i, V)さらに含んでおり、該Fe-M'-O層と該Fe-M-〇層とは元素の組成が異なっていてもよい。

【0013】該多層膜の表面粗さが概略0.5nm以下 であってもよい。

【0014】該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5nm以上1 00nm以下であってもよい。

【0015】該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5nm以上5 0 nm以下であってもよい。

【0016】該磁化回転抑制層と該強磁性体層とが形成 された後、磁界中において150℃-350℃で交換結 合膜が熱処理されていてもよい。

【0017】本発明に係る磁気抵抗効果素子は、基板と 多層膜とから成り、該多層膜は、少なくとも2つの強磁 性体層と非磁性層と該強磁性体層の1つの磁化回転を抑 制する磁化回転抑制層とを含んでおり、該強磁性体層は 該非磁性層を挟んで積層されており、該強磁性体層のう * ちの少なくとも1つは、該1つの強磁性体層に対して該 非磁性層の反対側に他方の該強磁性体層と接して設けら れた該磁化回転抑制層によって磁化方向が固定された固 定層であり、該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、 磁化方向が自由に回転できる自由層であり、該固定層の 磁化方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度の変化によ

り電気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子であって、該磁 化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層(M=A1、Ti、C o、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)を含んでおり、これにより 上記目的が達成される。

【0018】該磁化回転抑制層は、(Fe_{1-XMx})_{2O3} 層(M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、 0.01≦x≦0.4)を含んでいてもよい。

【0019】該磁化回転抑制層は、NiO層をさらに含 んでいてもよい。

【0020】該磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M'-O層 (M' = A 1, T i, Co, Mn, Cr, N i, V)さらに含んでおり、該Fe-M'-O層と該Fe-M-〇層とは元素の組成が異なっていてもよい。

【0021】該多層膜の表面粗さが概略0.5nm以下 であってもよい。

【0022】該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5 nm以上1 00 n m以下であってもよい。

【0023】該磁化回転抑制層の厚さは、5nm以上5 0 nm以下であってもよい。

【0024】該磁化回転抑制層と該強磁性体層とが形成 された後、磁界中において150℃-350℃で磁気抵 抗効果素子が熱処理されていてもよい。

【0025】該多層膜は、基板上に第1の磁化回転抑制 層と、第1の固定層と、第1の非磁性層と、強磁性体か ら成る自由層と、第2の非磁性層と、第2の固定層と、 第2の磁化回転抑制層とを順次積層して成り、該第1の 磁化回転抑制層は、Fe-M-O層(M-Al、Ti、 Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V)を含んでおり、該第1の 磁化回転抑制層は、該第1の固定層の磁化方向を固定 し、該第2の磁化回転抑制層は、該第2の固定層の磁化 方向を固定してもよい。

【0026】該第1の磁化回転抑制層は、(Fe 1-xMx) 2O3層 (M=Al、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、 Ni、V、0. $01 \le x \le 0$. 4) を含んでいてもよ 41

【0027】該第2の磁化回転抑制層は、NiOまたは Fe-M-O層 (M=A1、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、 Ni、V) のいずれかを含んでいてもよい。

【0028】該自由層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の 非磁性層を挟んで積層された2層以上の磁性層とを含ん でいてもよい。

【0029】該自由層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の 非磁性層を挟んで積層された2層以上の磁性層とを含ん でいてもよい。

【0030】該固定層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の 非磁性層を介して反強磁性的に交換結合した2つの磁性 層とを含んでいてもよい。

【0031】該固定層は、第3の非磁性層と、該第3の 非磁性層を介して反強磁性的に交換結合した2つの磁性 層とを含んでいてもよい。

【0032】本発明に係る磁気抵抗効果型ヘッドは、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子と、該磁気抵抗効果素子とシールド部とを絶縁するシールドギャップ部とを備えており、これにより上記目的が達成される。

【0033】本発明に係る他の磁気抵抗効果型ヘッドは、請求項9に記載の磁気抵抗効果素子と、該磁気抵抗効果素子へ検知すべき磁界を導入するヨーク部とを備えており、これにより上記目的が達成される。

【0034】本発明に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法 は、基板と多層膜とから成り、該多層膜は、少なくとも 2つの強磁性体層と非磁性層と該強磁性体層の磁化回転 を抑制する磁化回転抑制層とを含んでおり、該少なくと も2つの強磁性体層は該非磁性層を挟んで積層されてお り、該強磁性体層のうちの少なくとも1つは、該強磁性 体層に対して該非磁性層の反対側に該強磁性体層と接し て設けられた該磁化回転抑制層によって、磁化方向が固 定された固定層であり、該強磁性体層のうちの少なくと も1つは、磁化方向が自由に回転できる自由層であり、 該固定層の磁化方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度 の変化により電気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子の製 造方法であって、基板上に該磁化回転抑制層を形成する 第1工程と、該磁化回転抑制層上に該固定層、該非磁性 層および該自由層を順次積層する第2工程とを含んでお り、該第1工程は、主な成分がFe-M-O (M=A 1、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V) から成るター ゲットをスパッタリングする工程を包含しており、これ により上記目的が達成される。

【0035】本発明に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法 は、基板上に第1の磁化回転抑制層と、第1の固定層 と、第1の非磁性層と、強磁性体から成る自由層と、第 2の非磁性層と、第2の固定層と、第2の磁化回転抑制 層とを順次積層して成る多層膜を含み、該第1の磁化回 転抑制層は該第1の固定層の磁化方向を固定し、該第2 の磁化回転抑制層は該第2の固定層の磁化方向を固定 し、該第1の固定層の磁化方向および該第2の固定層の 磁化方向と該自由層の磁化方向との相対角度の変化によ り電気抵抗が変化する磁気抵抗効果素子の製造方法であ って、該基板上に該第1の磁化回転抑制層を形成する第 1工程と、該第1の磁化回転抑制層上に該第1の固定 層、該第1の非磁性層、該自由層、該第2の非磁性層お よび該第2の固定層を順次積層する第2工程と、該第2 の固定層上に該第2の磁化回転抑制層を形成する第3工 程とを含んでおり、該第1工程および該第3工程は、主 な成分がFe-M-O (M=A1、Ti、Co、Mn、 Cr、Ni、V) から成るターゲットをスパッタリング する工程を包含しており、これにより上記目的が達成さ れる。

[0036]

【発明の実施の形態】以下本発明に係る交換結合膜、M R 索子およびMR ヘッドを図面に基づいて説明する。 【0037】図1に本発明の交換結合膜100の構成を示す。図1では、基板1上にFe-M-O層2、強磁性体層3が順次積層されている。本発明の特徴は、強磁性体層3に交換パイアス磁界を作用させる磁化回転抑制層として、Fe-M-O層2を用いる点である。

【0038】本発明に係るFe-M-O層は、磁化回転抑制層であるFe-Oに、第三元素Mを添加したものであって、金属(FeとMを加えたもの)と酸素(O)の原子組成比が $1.2\sim1.6$ であるものと定義する。

【0039】磁化回転抑制層であるFe-Oに第三元素 Mを原子組成比が1.2~1.6となるように添加する ことにより、低温の熱処理で、固定層の磁化のピン止め 効果が良くなる。原子組成比は、望ましくは1.35~ 1.55の範囲とする。

【0040】金属(FeとMを加えたもの)と酸素(O)の原子組成比が1.2~1.6の範囲外であると、固定層の磁化のピン止め効果は良くない。原子組成比が1.2以下ではピン止め効果が劣化する。原子組成比が1.6以上ではFe-M-O層が弱い強磁性体とな

【0041】次に、交換結合膜100を用いたMR素子 についてより詳しく説明する。

りMRヘッドに用いる場合好ましくない。

【0042】図2に本発明のMR素子200の構成を示す断面図の一例を示す。図2では、基板1上に、Fe-M-O層2、固定層3、非磁性層4および自由層5が順次積層されている。強磁性体である固定層3の磁化方向は、Fe-M-O層2による交換バイアス磁界によりピン止めされている。一方の強磁性体である自由層5の磁化方向は、非磁性層4により、固定層3から磁気的に分離されているので、MR素子200の外部からの磁界により比較的自由に動くことができる。

【0043】従って、固定層3の磁化方向と自由層5の磁化方向の角度が相対的に変化することにより、MR素子200の電気抵抗が変化する。MR素子200を磁気抵抗センサーとして用いるときは、MR素子200の外部からの磁界により生じた電気抵抗の変化を電気信号として読みとることができる。

【0044】本発明の特徴は、磁化回転抑制層として、Fe-M-O層2を用いる点である。従来例で述べたように、 α -Fe $_2$ O $_3$ を用いたMR素子は大きなMR比を示す。しかしながら、 α -Fe $_2$ O $_3$ を用いたMR素子では、固定層3のピン止め磁界の大きさが不十分で(特にデュアル構造や上に固定層がある構造とした場合の上部ピン止め用の α -Fe $_2$ O $_3$ 層で著しい。)、かつ低温磁界中熱処理による特性改善が容易ではない。

【0045】この問題点を解決するために本発明では、 磁化回転抑制層として、Feの酸化層であるFe-O層 においてFe原子の一部をAl、Ti、Co、Mn、C r、Ni、V等の原子で置換したFe-M-O層を用い る。 【0046】この時、金属(FeとMe加えたもの)と酸素(O)の原子組成比が概略 $1.2\sim1.6$ となっているのが望ましい。Fe原子の一部をAl、Ti、Mn、V等で置換すると、150℃から350℃程度の温度の熱処理後において、固定層3の磁化方向のピン止め効果がより大きくなる。XFe原子の一部をCo、Ni等で置換すると、MR素子の作製時や熱処理後においてより大きなピン止め磁界を有するMR素子が得られる。

【0047】上記において特にMn、Coはより大きなMR比を得るのに有効である。より大きなピン止め磁界を得るのにはCoが特に有効である。より大きなピン止め磁界を得るのに望ましい組成は、

(Fe_{1-x}M_x) $_2$ O $_3$ (M=A1、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V、0.01 \le x \le 0.4) である。

【0048】 xが小さすぎると効果がないし、あまり大きくすると、かえってピン止め効果が低下したりして良くない。また、Fe原子を上記したAl、Ti、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V以外の他の元素で置換するとフェリ磁性体となり、Fe-M-O層に自発磁化を発生させるので、問題がある。

【0049】Fe-M-O層2の厚さがあまり薄すぎると固定層3の磁化方向のピン止め効果が弱くなるため、Fe-M-O層2の厚さは少なくとも5nm以上は必要である。また、Fe-M-O層2の厚さが厚すぎると表面があれて、自由層5と固定層3との間に磁気的な結合が発生しやすくなるので、Fe-M-O層2の厚さは100nm以下、望ましくは50nm以下とするのがよい。この条件は特にデュアル構造のMR素子の場合に重要である。

【0050】なお、磁化回転抑制層は通常反強磁性体であるが、Fe-M-O層2の役割としては、固定層3の磁化方向を一定方向に固定できれば良く、磁化回転抑制層の全体が完全な反強磁性体とならなくてもよい。例えば磁化回転抑制層の一部が弱い強磁性体、常磁性体、フェリ磁性体となっても、固定層3の磁化方向の固定効果が有ればよい。

【0.051】通常、MRへッドの自由層5としては、Ni-Co-Fe合金が適している。Ni-Co-Fe層の原子組成比としては、Ni_xCo_yFe_Z

 $0.6 \le x \le 0.9$

 $0 \le y \le 0$. 4

 $0 \le z \le 0$. 3

のNi-richの軟磁性層、もしくは、Ni_x'Co_y'

 $0 \le x' \le 0.4$

 $0. \ 2 \le y' \le 0. \ 95$

 $0 \le z' \le 0.5$

のCo-rich圏を用いるのが望ましい。これらの組成の層はセンサーやMRヘッド用として要求される低磁

歪特性(1×10-5)を有する。

【0052】また自由層5の他の材料としては、Co-Mn-B、Co-Fe-B、Co-Nb-Zr、Co-Nb-B等のアモルファス層、あるいはこのアモルファス層と上記のNi-Co-Fe層との積層膜でも良い。【0053】自由層5の厚さは1nm以上10nm以下がよい。自由層5が厚いとシャント効果でMR比が低下する。自由層5が薄すぎると軟磁気特性が劣化する。より望ましくは2nm以上7nm以下がよい。

【0054】固定層3としては、CoまたはCo-Fe、Ni-Fe-Co合金等の材料が優れている。特にCoまたはCo-Fe合金が大きなMR比を得るのに良い。又大きな交換結合を得るにはNi-Fe、Ni-Fe-Co系が望ましい。従ってFe-M-O層2との界面にはNi系膜を、Cu等の非磁性層4との界面にはCo系膜を用いるのが望ましい。

【0055】固定層3の厚みは1nm以上10nm以下がよい。固定層3が厚すぎても薄すぎてもMR比が低下する。より望ましくは1nm以上5nm以下とするのがよい。

【0056】固定層3には非磁性層4を介して反強磁性的に交換結合した2つの磁性層より成る多層膜を用いても良い。具体的にはCo/Ru/Coがその一例としてあげられる。ただしこの時Ruの厚みは2つのCoが反強磁性的に交換結合する厚みとする必要があり、この場合は約0.6nmである。通常のMR素子ではMR素子が極めて小さくなった場合固定層3の端面に発生する磁極により自由層5に好ましくないバイアス磁界が印加される問題がある。固定層3を反強磁性的に交換結合した2つの磁性層よりなる構成とすることにより、バイアス磁界は自由層5には印加されず、上記の問題が解決される

【0057】自由層5と固定層3との間の非磁性層4としては、Cu、Ag、Au、Ruなどがあるが、特にCuが優れている。非磁性層4の厚みは、強磁性体層(固定層3と自由層5)間の相互作用を弱くするために少なくとも0.9nm以上は必要である。また非磁性層4が厚くなるとMR比が低下してしまうので、非磁性層4の厚みは10nm以下、望ましくは3nm以下とするべきである。

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【0058】また、MR比を更に大きくするために、強磁性体層(固定層3または自由層5)と非磁性層4の界面に界面磁性層を挿入するのも有効である。界面磁性層が厚いと、MR比の磁界感度が低下するので、界面磁性層の厚みは2nm以下、望ましくは1.8nm以下とする必要がある。またこの界面磁性層が有効に働くためには、少なくとも0.2nm上の厚みは必要であり、望ましくは0.8nm以上の厚みがよい。界面磁性層の材料としては、CoまたはCo高濃度のCo-Fe合金が優れている。

【0059】基板1としては、ガラス、MgO、Si、A1₂O₃-Ti C基板等表面の比較的平滑なものを用いる。MRヘッドを作製する場合には、A1₂O₃-Ti C基板が適している。

【0060】また、MR比を更に大きくする方法の一つとしては、自由層5の上に更に金属反射層を形成するのもよい。金属反射膜の材料としては、Ag、Auなどが優れている。

【0061】金属反射層が厚すぎるとシャント効果でMR比が低下するので、10nm以下、望ましくは3nm以下とするのがよい。また薄すぎると効果がないので少なくとも0.5nm以上の厚み、望ましくは1nm以上とするのがよい。

【0062】以上、図2の場合には、Fe-M-O層2から順に積層する場合について述べたが、逆に基板上に直接または下地層を介して自由層5/非磁性層4/固定層3/Fe-M-O層2の順に積層しても良い。この構造は、図2の構成に比べるとピン止め効果はやや小さくなるが、素子の構成によってはこのような構成が有効な場合があり、MR素子として用いることが可能である。

【0063】また以上は通常のMR素子の場合について説明したが、更に大きなMR比を得るためには図3に示すようなデュアルスピンバルブの構成を有するMR素子300もよい。この場合、最上層の磁化回転抑制層6としてはFe-M-O層またはNiOあるいはこれらの複合層(積層膜)を用いてもよい。望ましくはより大きなMR比を得るためにはFe-M-O層を用いるのが適当である。MR素子の電極形成やMRへッド形成の観点からはFe-Mn、Ni-Mn、Pd-Mn、Pt-Mn、Ir-Mn、Fe-lr等の金属反強磁性体を用いるのが適当である。この中では熱安定性の観点からPt-Mnが最もよい。Pt $_ZMn_{1-Z}$ 層の適当な組成としては、原子組成比で、 $0.4 \le z \le 0.6$ がよい。

【0064】一方、図3の構成例ではFe-M-O層2から構成する場合について説明したが、Fe-M-O層2と磁化回転抑制層6とを逆に構成してもよい。

【0065】上記においてNiOと α -Fe₂O₃を用いる場合は基板1上にNiOを形成し、NiO上に α -Fe₂O₃を形成し、固定層3は α -Fe₂O₃によりピン止めされているのが熱的安定性や膜の平坦性の観点から望ましい。更にこの場合NiO膜は10nm程度で良いが、 α -Fe₂O₃膜はこれより厚いことが望ましい。

【0066】なお以上述べた各層の形成方法としては、スパッタリング法が適している。スパッタリング法としてはDCスパッタリング法、RFスパッタリング法、イオンビームスパッタリング法などがあるが、いずれの方法でも本発明のMR素子を作製できる。

【0067】以上述べたような本発明のMR素子を用いて、MRへッドを構成することができる。図5にMRへッド30の構成の一例を示す。図5を矢印Aの方向から

見た図が、図4であり、点線Bで示した平面で切った断面が図6に示してある。以下、図4を中心にして説明する。

【0068】図4ではMR素子部9は上部および下部のシールドギャップ14、11に挟まれるように構成されている。シールドギャップ材としては、 $A1_2O_3$ 、 SiO_2 等の絶縁膜が使われる。シールドギャップ14、11の更に外側は上部および下部のシールド15、10があるがこれはNi-Fe合金などの軟磁性膜が使われる。MR素子部9の磁区制御のためにCo-Pt合金等のハードバイアス部12によるバイアス磁界を加える。ここでは、バイアスの印加方法としてはハード膜を用いる場合について説明したが、Fe-Mn等の反強磁性体を用いた場合も同様である。MR素子部9はシールドキャップ11、14によってシールド10、15等と絶縁されており、リード部13を介して電流を流すことにより、MR素子部9の抵抗変化を読みとる。

【0069】またMRへッドは読みとり専用ヘッドなので、通常書き込み用の誘導型ヘッドと組み合わせて用いられる。図6および図7には読みとりヘッド部32だけでなく、書き込みヘッド部31も併せて描かれている。図4にさらに書き込みヘッド部31を形成した場合の図が、図7Aである。書き込みヘッド部31としては、上部シールド15上に記録ギャップ層40を介して形成された上部コア16がある。

【0070】なお、図7Aでは従来のアバティッド接合 (abutted junction)によるMRへッ ド構造について説明したが、高密度化による狭トラック 化に伴い、トラック幅41の規制がより精密にできる、 図7Bに示したオーバーレイ(overlaid)構造 を用いたMRへッド構造も有効である。

【0071】次に、MRへッド50の記録再生のメカニズムを図6を用いて説明する。図6に示すように、記録する際には、コイル17に流した電流により発生した磁束が、上部コア16と上部シールド15との間より漏れ、磁気ディスク21に記録することができる。MRへッド30は、ディスク21に対して相対的に矢印cの方向に進むので、コイル17に流す電流を反転させることにより、記録磁化の方向23を反転させることができる。また、高密度化に伴い、記録長22が短くなるので、それにともない記録キャップ長19を小さくする必要がある。

【0072】再生する場合には、磁気ディスク21の記録磁化部から漏れた磁束24が、シールド10、15に挟まれたMR素子部9に作用して、MR素子部9の抵抗を変化させる。MR素子部9には、リード部13を介して電流が流れているので、抵抗の変化を電圧の変化(出力)として読みとることができる。

【0073】図8は、本発明のMR素子を用いたヨーク型ヘッドの構成を示す。ヨーク型ヘッド80は、MR素

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子部9とヨーク部81と絶縁膜部82と記録ポール部18と巻き線部83とを備えている。ヨーク部81と記録ポール部18とは記録再生ギャップ20を形成している。

【0074】次に、MRヘッドの製造方法は概略、図9のように説明できる。

【0075】すなわち、図4に示すように、まず、基板上に適当な処理を施した後、下部シールド膜10を形成する(S801)。さらに、下部シールドギャップ11を形成した後(S802)、MR素子部9を形成する(S803)。次に、MR索子部9をパターニングした後(S804)、ハードバイアス部12、リード部13を形成する(S805、S806)。次に上部シールドギャップ14、上部シールド15を形成する(S807、S808)。この後、図7Aに示すような書き込みヘッド部31を形成して、MRヘッド30が完成する(S809)。

【0076】図10を参照して、S803で説明したMR素子部9の製造方法をさらに詳しく説明する。図2に示すように非磁性基板1上にFe-M-Oより成るターゲットをスパッタリングすることにより、Fe-M-O層2が形成される(S901)。次に、Fe-M-O層2上に、固定層3、非磁性層4および自由層5が順次積層され、MR素子部9が形成される(S902)。

【0077】なお、図3に示すMR素子300を製造する場合は、自由層5上にさらに非磁性層4、固定層3および磁化回転抑制層6が順次積層され、MR素子部が形成される。

【0078】将来のハードディスクドライブの高密度化を考慮すると、記録波長を短くする必要性があり、そのためには図4に示したシールド間の距離d(図6の距離18)を短くする必要がある。そのためには図4から明らかな様に、MR素子部9を薄くする必要があり、反強磁性体層を除いたMR素子部9の膜厚は少なくとも20nm以下とするのが望ましい。また本発明に係る反強磁性体であるFe-M-O層2は絶縁体なので、絶縁体の一部として図4でシールドギャップ11の一部として存在する場合には、厚みに関する制限は少ない。しかし、Fe-M-O層2がMR素子部9の一部として存在する場合、なるべく薄いのが望ましく、40nm以下、望ましくは20nm以下とするべきである。

【0079】またMR素子部9においては、軟磁性膜の磁化反転時にパルクハウゼンノイズの発生を押さえるために、図2、3の自由層5の磁化容易軸は、検知すべき信号磁界方向に概略垂直となるように構成されているのがよい。

[0800]

【実施例】本発明の交換結合膜、MR素子およびMRへッドについて以下具体的な実施例を用いて説明する。

【0081】(実施例1)実施例1に示すような交換結

合膜の作製には、多元スパッタリング装置を用いた。ターゲットには、 Fe_2O_3 および $Co_0.9Fe_0.1$ を用いた。 Fe_2O_3 ターゲットの上に Ti_2O_3 のチップを置き ($Fe_{1-x}Ti_x$) $_2O_3$ 膜を形成した。

【0082】真空チャンパー内を 1×10^{-8} Torr以下まで排気した後、Arガスを約0.8mTorrになるように流しながら、ガラス基板上に、スパッタリング法を用いて図1の構成の交換結合膜100を作製した。各層の厚み等の試料の詳細は以下に示す。ここで、かっこ内は各層の厚みをnm単位で示している。カソードとしては、Fe $_2$ O $_3$ の場合にはrfカソードを用い、その他の場合にはDCカソードを用いた。

【0083】作製した交換結合膜を、真空中約80kA /m(1kOe)の磁界を印加しながら250℃の温度 に1時間保持した。その後、室温で、振動試料型磁力計 を用い、磁化曲線を測定した。

【0084】A1: $(Fe_{1-x}Ti_x)_2O_3$ (50) /C $o_{0.9}Fe_{0.1}$ (10) 測定された磁化曲線の形状を模式的に図11に示す。磁化回転抑制層の $(Fe_{1-x}Ti_x)_2O_3$ 層は殆ど磁化がないので、 $Co_{0.9}Fe_{0.1}$ は交換結合膜100の磁化曲線を見ていることになる。図11の磁化曲線では原点より重心がシフトしているがこのシフト量をHuaとする。シフト量Huaは、交換パイアスの強さを表している。また、磁化曲線の印加磁界軸との交点の幅の半分で、シフト量Hcを定義する。シフト量Hcも、酸化物の磁化回転抑制層を用いた場合には交換パイアス磁界により大きくなる傾向がある。

【0085】交換結合膜 100の磁化曲線より求めたH u aおよびH c の値を図 12 に示す。横軸のx は、(F $e_{1-x}M_x$) $_2O_3$ における原子組成比x を示す。しかも、M=T i である。

【0086】図12より、Tiを導入することにより、Huaが増大していることがわかる。これはTiの導入により、比較的低温の熱処理でも、一方向異方性が誘起されるようになったことを意味している。ただし、Tiを過度に導入すると逆にHuaは低下している。

【0087】又、以上は($Fe_{1-X}Ti_X$) $_2O_3$ 膜の製膜方法として、 Fe_2O_3 ターゲットの上に Ti_2O_3 のチップを置く場合について説明したが、合金ターゲットを用いることも可能である。又、Tiのチップを Fe_2O_3 ターゲットの上におく方法でもよい。ただしこの場合には、原子組成比(Fe+Ti)/Oが概略1. $2\sim1$. 6となるように、スパッタガスとしてAr ガスだけでなく酸素ガスを混ぜるなどして、とくに注意する必要がある

【0088】図11で、x>0.4の組成領域でHua、Hcともに大きく低下しているがこの原因の一つは、($Fe_{1-x}Tix$) $_2O_3$ 層に磁化が発生し、フェリ磁性体となっている可能性がある。

【0089】原子組成比(Fe÷Ti)/Oが1.2~

1. 6からずれている場合も磁化が発生する可能性があり、この時にもHuaが低下する。また、($Fe_{1-X}Ti_{1}$) $_{2}O_{3}$ 膜が磁化を持つと、そこから磁束が発生し、交換結合膜 1000利用に支障を来すことがある。

【0090】以上はTiを置換元素として添加した場合について説明したが、 $\alpha-Fe_2O_3$ 膜のFe原子をA1、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V等で置換した膜の試料 A2も同様に作製した。また熱処理もTiの場合と同様に行った。

[0091] A2: $(Fe_{0.9}M_{0.1})_{2}O_{3}$ (50) /C $o_{0.9}Fe_{0.1}$ (10)

この交換結合膜のHuaおよびHcの値をAlと同様にして評価した。その結果を、(表1)に示す。

[0092]

【表1】

M (Fe階換金馬)	Hua (KA/m)	Hc (KA/m)
屋投せず	0.1	12.0
Al	10.2	5.5
Co	7.7	6.2
Mn	13.5	7.6
Cr	8.4	4.4
Ni	4.3	9.2
٧	3.9	8.8

【0093】 (表1) に示すように、 Fe_2O_3 膜のFe原子をAl、Co、Mn、Cr、Ni、V等で置換することにより、Hu aが増加していることがわかる。

【0094】また、同様にして、比較例として、 Fe_2 O $_3$ 膜のFe原子をSn、Sb、Geで置換した交換結合膜 100を作成した。ただしこの場合も($Fe \div M$)/O=1. $2\sim1$. 6(MはSn、Sb、Geの内いすれか)となるように組成を調整した。

【0095】この結果、Huaは増加せず、Hcが低下しただけで、固定層である強磁性体層3のピン止め効果は低下した。

【0096】(実施例2)実施例1と同様に、多元スパッタリング装置を用い、図2に示すようなMR素子を作製した。基板1としてSi基板を用い、磁化回転制御層としてFe-Al-O層2、固定層3の強磁性層としてCo、非磁性層4としてCu、自由層5としてNi0.58 Fe0.20Co0.12を用いた。この場合、Fe-Al-O層の原子組成比としては、Al/(Fe+Al)=0.05/1とし、概略(Fe+Al)/O=1.2~1.6となるようにした。各層の厚み等は以下のようにした。

【0097】B1:Fe→Al→O(35)/Co (2)/Cu(2)/Ni_{0.68}Fe_{0.20}Co_{0.12}(5) このようにして作製したMR素子を実施例1と同様の方 法で、250℃で30分熱処理した。

【0098】このようにして作製したMR案子B1のM R特性を室温で最高40kA/mの磁界を印加して、直流4端子法で評価した。その結果を表2に示す。比較の ために、Fe-Al-O層の代わりにFe₂O₃層を用い、全く同様にして作成したMR素子の試料B0も、同様の方法でMR特性を評価した。

[0099]

【表2】

試料番号	磁化回転抑制層	MR出	Нр
B0	Fe ₂ 03	13.7	10
B1	Fe-AI-0	12.9	21

【0100】(表2)の試料のMR曲線は、概略、図13に示すような形となる。図13で最初マイナス側に大きな磁界を印加すると自由層5と固定層3の磁化方向はともに揃った方向を向く(a)。これより次第に磁界を減少させていき、+側に反転すると、まず自由層5の磁化方向が反転し、抵抗が上昇する(b)。更に外部磁界を増加させると、今度は固定層3の磁化方向も反転し、

(c)の状態となり、抵抗は低下し、もとのレベルとなる。この反転磁界をHpとし、上記の試料について測定した結果を表2にMR比と併せて示す。

【0101】(表2)の結果より、本発明の試料B1は従来例の試料B0に比べて、MR比の点では遜色なく、かつ高いピン止め磁界HPを有していることがわかる。 【0102】また、試料B1と全く同様にして、自由層5が非磁性層4を介した複数の磁性層からなる試料B2を作成する。

[0103] B2: Fe-Al-O(35) / Co

(2) /Cu (2) $/N i_{0.68}Fe_{0.20}Co_{0.12}$ (2)

/Cu (1) $/Ni_{0.68}Fe_{0.20}Co_{0.12}$ (2)

試料B2を試料B1と同様の方法にて評価した。その結果、本発明の試料B2は、試料B1に比べてMR比やHpは殆ど変化がないが、自由層5の軟磁気特性が改善され、軟磁性層の保磁力が、約800A/mから400A/mまで下がった。このように、自由層5を非磁性層4を介して積層された2層以上の磁性層から構成することにより、自由層5の軟磁気特性を改善し、MR素子の磁界感度を向上させることができる。

【0104】また試料B1と全く同様にして、固定層3としてCo(2)のかわりに反強磁性交換結合したCo(2)/Ru(0.6)/Co(2)を用いたB3:Fe-Al-O(35)/Co(2)/Ru(0.6)/Co(2)/Ni0.68Fe0.20Co0.12(5)

を作製し、試料B1と同様の方法にて評価した。この本発明の試料B3は試料B1に比べてMR比は2.1%低下したが、Hpは40kA/m以上となり、かつ固定層3の端面に発生する磁極による自由層5へのパイアスの影響がまったく無いことがわかった。

【0105】次に本発明の試料B1および比較例の試料B0をMR来子9を用いて、図5に示すようなMRへッド30を構成して、特性を評価した。この場合、基板としてはA12O3-TiC基板を用い、シールド10、15材にはNia,8Fea,2合金を用い、シールドギャップ

11、14にはA1₂O₃を用いた。またハードバイアス部12にはCo-Pt合金を用い、リード部13をAuで構成した。また、自由層5の磁化容易方向が検知すべき信号磁界方向と垂直になるように、固定層3の磁化容易軸の方向が検知すべき信号磁界方向と平行になるように磁性層(自由層5および固定層3)に異方性を付与した。この方法は、MR素子を作成後、まず、磁界中270℃で熱処理して、固定層3の磁化容易軸の方向を規定した後、更に、180℃で熱処理して、自由層5の磁化容易軸の方向を規定して行った。

【0106】これらのMRへッドに、センス電流として 直流電流を流し、約3kA/mの交流信号磁界を印加し て両へッドの出力を評価した。その結果、本発明の試料 B1のMR素子を用いたMRへッドの出力は、試料B0 のMR素子を用いた従来のMRへッドとほぼ同等であっ た。ただし、測定中15kA/mの直流磁界をいったん 印加して取り除くと、比較例の試料B0を用いたMRへ ッドは出力が不安定になったのに対し、本発明のB1を 用いた磁気ヘッドは直流磁界印加後も出力が安定であっ た。

【0107】(実施例3)実施例2と同様の方法で、図2の構成のMR素子200を作成した。ただし、A1/(Fe+A1)=0.1/1、Ti/(Fe+Ti)=0.1/1、Mn/(Fe+Co)=0.2/1、Cr/(Fe+Co)=0.2/1、Cr/(Fe+Co)=0.1/1とした。この場合、磁化回転抑制層として、以下に示すような複合タイプのものも作成した。最後に付けたCu層は酸化防止膜である。

C1: Fe-A1-O (20) / $Co_{0.85}Fe$ 0.15 (1) / $Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}$ (5) / Cu (1) C2: Fe-Co-O (20) / $Co_{0.85}Fe$ 0.15 (2) / Cu (2.2) / $Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15}$ (1) / $Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}$ / Cu (1)

C3: Fe-Cr-O (20) / $Co_{0.85}Fe$ 0.15 (2) / Cu (2.2) / $Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15}$ (1) / $Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}$ (5) / Cu (1)

C4: NiO (10) /Fe-A1-O (10) /Co 0.85Fe0.15 (2) /Cu (2. 2) /Co0.85Fe 0.15 (1) /Ni0.8Fe0.2 (5) /Cu (1) C5: Fe-Ti-O (10) /Fe-Co-O (1

0) $/Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15}$ (2) /Cu (2. 2) /Co 0.85 $Fe_{0.15}$ (1) $/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}$ (5) /Cu (1)

C6: Fe-Mn-O (20) /Co_{0.85}Fe
0.15 (2) /Cu (2.2) /Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15} (1)
/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Cu (1)
C7: Fe-Ti-O (10) /Fe-A1-O (1
0) /Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15} (2) /Cu (2.2) /Co
0.85Fe_{0.15} (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Cu
(1)

C8: Fe_2O_3 (20) / $Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15}$ (2) / Cu (2.2) / $Co_{0.85}Fe_{0.15}$ (1) / $Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}$ (5) / Cu (1)

C 9: N i O/C o 0.85 F e 0.15 (2) /C u (2. 2) /C o 0.85 F e 0.15 (1) /N i 0.8 F e 0.2/C u (1)

C10: (Fe0.9Al0.1) 2O3 (10) /NiO (10) /Co0.85Fe0.15 (2) /Cu (2.2) /Co0.85Fe0.15 (1) /Ni0.8Fe0.2/Cu (1) 作成したMR素子を実施例1と同様の方法で250℃で30分間熱処理した。

【0108】実施例2と全く同様の方法でMR特性を評価した。その結果を表3に示す。

[0109]

【表3】

試料番号	MR比	Нр
C1	13.7	12.2
C2	16.2	38.5
C3 C4	13.8 12.9	15.5 23.5
C5	16.0	36.0
C6	17.0	22.5
C7	15.1	25.3
C8 C9	6.3 3.8	7.6 5.4
C10	13.3	17.7
_ , _		

【0110】以上示したように、本発明の試料C1-C7 およびC10は、従来例の試料C8、C9に比べて、交換パイアス磁界Hpが大きいため、磁化の反平行状態を実現できやすく、MR比が大きくなる。特にMR比ではFe-Mn-O層、Fe-Co-O層が有効である。また試料C1およびC10に比べて試料C2-C7はHpが大きい。特にHpではFe-Co-O層が有効である。

【0111】以上は本発明のMR素子について説明したが、上記実施例から、MR素子を構成する交換結合膜においても、本発明の交換結合膜は、従来の交換結合膜よりも優れた交換バイアス特性を示すことは明らかである。

【0112】(実施例4)実施例1と同様の方法で、図3に示すデュアルスピンバルブ膜のMR素子300を作成した。

[0113] この場合、概略、A1/(Fe+A1) = 0.05/1、(Fe+A1) $/0=1.2\sim1.6$ 、Ti/(Fe+Ti) = 0.05/1、(Fe+Ti) $/0=1.2\sim1.6$ 、Mn/(Fe+Mn) = 0.02/1、Co/(Fe+Co) = 0.2/1 とした。 $D1:Fe_2O_3(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni_08Fe_02/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Ir-Mn(8) D2:Fe-A1-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu$

(2.5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Co

(1) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (3) /Ir-Mn (8)

D3: Fe-Al-O (30) /Co (3) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Co (1) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (3) /Fe-Co-O (30)

D4: Fe-Mn-O (30) /Co (3) /Cu (2.5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Co (1) /Cu (2.5) /Co (3) /Fe-Co-O (30)

D5: NiO (10) /Fe-Co-O (20) /Co (3) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} /Co (1) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (3) /Fe-C o-O (30)

D6: Fe-Ti-O (30) /Co (3) /Cu (2.5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}/Co (1) /Cu (2.5) /Co (3) /Ir-Mn (8) D7: Fe-Ti-O (30) /Co (3) /Cu (2.5) /Co (1) /Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2} (5) /Co (1) /Cu (2.5) /Co (3) /Fe-Ti-O (30)

D8: Fe-Ti-O (30) /Co (3) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (1) /Nig8Feg2 (5) /Co (1) /Cu (2. 5) /Co (3) /Fe-Co-O (30)

D9: Fe-Ti-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu
(2. 5)/Co(1)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(5)/Co
(1)/Cu(2. 5)/Co(3)/NiO(30)
D11: Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu
(2. 5)/Co(1)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(5)/Co
(1)/Cu(2. 5)/Co(3)/PtMn(2
0)

以上のMR素子に関して、実施例1と同様の方法で熱処理した後、実施例2と同様の方法でMR効果を測定した。その結果を表4に示す。

【0114】 【表4】

試料番号	MR比
D1	13.5
D2 03	20.5 23.9
D4	28.0
D5 D6	28.0° 20.3
D7 ·	20.8
D8 D9	26.2 21.5
D10	23.6
D11	19.9

【0115】従来例の試料D1に比べて、本発明の実施 例のMR案子の試料D2-D10は大きなMR比を示 す。 【0116】これは図3でFe-M-O層2の磁化回転抑制層のピン止め効果が大きいため固定層3の磁化方向が固定され、自由層5との間で磁化の反平行状態が良く実現されるためと考えられる。また試料D2、D6、D11はMR比がやや小さいが試料D3-D5、試料D7-D9に比べて磁化回転抑制層6のピン止め効果が大きい。

【0117】また、試料D3と全く同様にして、自由層5が非磁性層4を介した3層の磁性層からなるタイプの以下に示すMR素子を作成した。

D10:Fe-A1-O(30)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(1.5)/Cu(0.6)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(1.5)/Cu(0.6)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(1.5)/Cu(0.6)/Ni_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}(1.5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)/Co(3)/Fe-Co-O(30) 試料D10を試料D3と同様の方法にて評価した。その結果、本発明の試料D10は、試料D3に比べてMR比やHpは殆ど変化がないが、自由層5の軟磁気特性が改善され、軟磁性層の保磁力が、約800A/mから250A/mまで下がった。このように、自由層5を非磁性層4を介して積層された2層以上の磁性層から構成することにより、自由層5の軟磁気特性を改善し、MR素子の磁界感度を向上させることができる。

【0118】また試料D11と全く同様にして固定層としてCo(3)のかわりに反強磁性結合したCo(2)/Ru(0.7)/Co(3)を用いた下記のD12を作成し、試料D11と同様に評価したところ、MR比は、3.5%低下したが、HpはD11の約3倍となった。

D12:Fe-Al-O(30)/Co(2)/Ru
(0.7)/Co(3)/Cu(2.5)/Co(1)
/Ni08Fe02(5)/Co(1)/Cu(2.5)
/Co(3)/Ru(0.7)/Co(2)/Pt-M
n(20)

【0119】 (実施例5) まず、ガラス基板を様々な条件でイオンピームを用いて表面処理し、表面粗さを変化させた。この様にして処理したガラス基板上に実施例2と全く同様の方法で、以下に示すMR素子を作製した。【0120】E:Fe-Co-O(8)/ $Co0.85Fe_{0.15}(2)$ /Cu(2)/ $Ni_{0.68}Fe_{0.20}Co$

0.12(3)作成した試料の表面粗さとMR比を表5に示す。この場合の表面粗さは、STM (Scanning Tunneling microscope)を用いて評価した。10mm角の試料の表面上で、無作為に10nm×10nmのエリアを10カ所選び、各エリアで最も高い点と低い点の差をそのエリアの表面粗さとし、それを10カ所で平均してその試料の表面粗さとした。

【0121】 【表5】

表面狙き(nm)	MR比(%)
0.38	13.3
0.45	12.9
0.52	8.6
0.68	4.3
1.22	2.7

【0122】表5の結果から、表面粗さが0.5nm以下のものは大きなMR比を示すことが分かる。

【0123】(実施例6)実施例4で前述した試料D7を用いて図8に示したヨーク型MRヘッド80を作製した。

【0124】この場合図8の絶縁膜17にはプラズマ酸化法で作製した厚さ2nmのA1-O超薄膜を用いた。又ヨーク部16には高透磁率のCo-Nb-Zr系アモルファス合金膜を用いた。このようにして作製したヨーク型MRへッドの出力と、MR素子として実施例5の試料D1を用いて、全く同様の方法で作成したMRへッドとの出力を比較したところ約+3dbの出力アップが実現されることがわかった。

[0125]

【発明の効果】本発明の酸化物の磁化回転抑制層を用いた交換結合膜は従来のものに比べて大きな交換パイアス磁界を強磁性体に与える。その結果、固定層の磁化方向が安定し、熱的安定性が良好で大きなMR比を示す交換結合膜、MR素子およびMRヘッドを得ることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】本発明の交換結合膜の断面の模式図。
- 【図2】本発明のMR素子の断面の模式図。
- 【図3】本発明の別のMR素子の断面の模式図。
- 【図4】本発明のMRヘッドの断面図の一例を示す図。

【図5】本発明のMRヘッドの立体図。

【図6】本発明のMRヘッドと磁気ディスクの一断面 図

【図7A】本発明の記録ヘッド一体型MRヘッドの一断面図。

【図7B】本発明の他のMRヘッドの一断面図。

【図8】本発明のさらに他のMRヘッドの断面図。

【図9】本発明のMRヘッドの製造工程を示すフローチャートの一例。

【図10】本発明のMR素子部9の製造工程を示すフローチャートの一例。

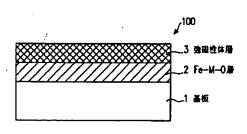
【図11】本発明の交換結合膜の磁化曲線の一例を示す図。

【図12】 (Fe_{1-x}Ti_x)₂O₃ (50) / Co_{0.9}Fe_{0.1} (10) 膜のHcとHuaのx依存性を示す図。 【図13】本発明のMR素子のMR曲線の一例を示す

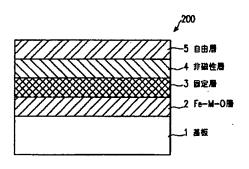
【符号の説明】

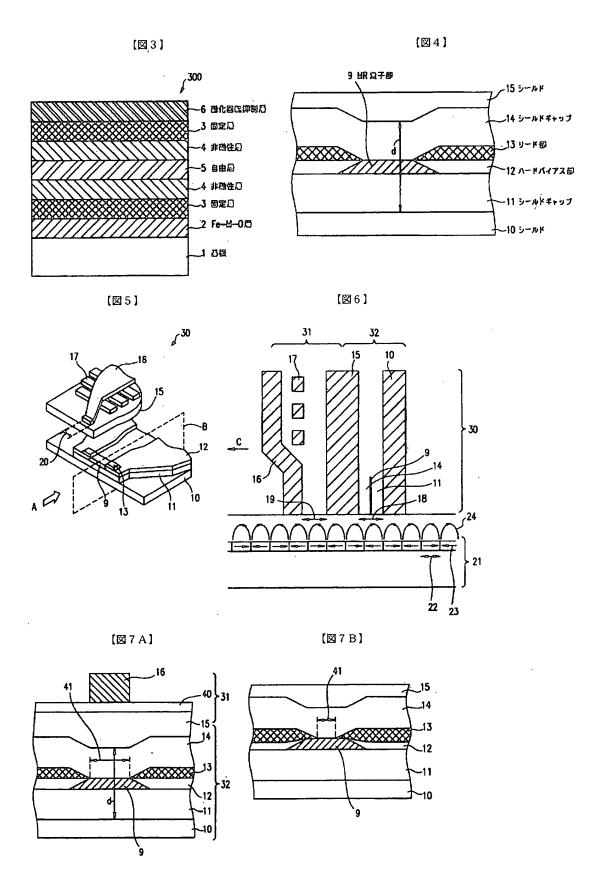
- 1 基板
- 2 Fe-M-O層
- 3 強磁性体層(固定層)
- 4 非磁性層
- 5 自由層
- 6 磁化回転抑制層
- 9 MR素子部
- 10 下部シールド
- 11 下部シールドギャップ
- 12 ハードバイアス部
- 13 リード部・
- 14 上部シールドギャップ
- 15 上部シールド

【図1】

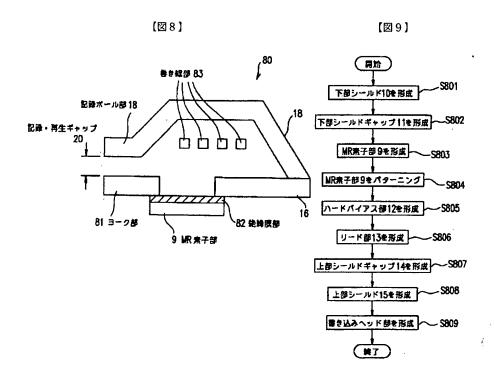


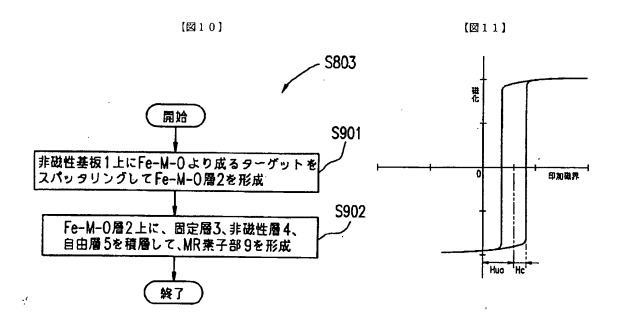
【図2】

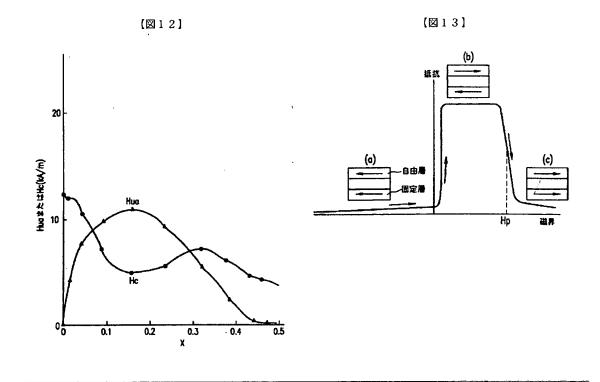




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フロントページの続き

(72) 発明者 杉田 康成 大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器 産業株式会社内